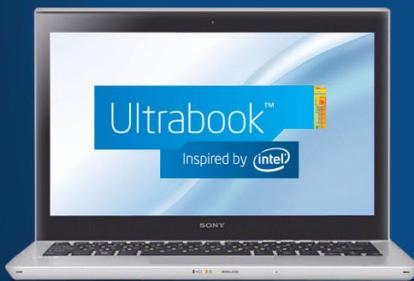


COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE!

THE SHOPPER'S GUIDE TO NEW PRODUCTS

FirstGlimpse®

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Choose From
10 Different Models Inside

intel
Inspired
Ultrabooks



Accomplish More With A Touchscreen
SONY VAIO Tap 20 Mobile Desktop



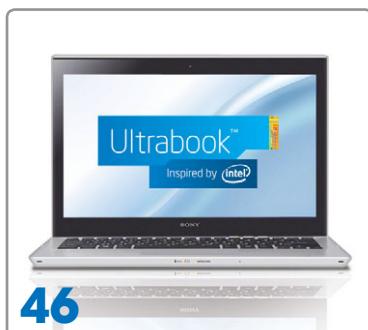
JANUARY 2013



Experience
Amazing Color Brightness
EPSON Home Cinema 3020
3D 1080p 3LCD Projector

FirstGlimpse

Volume 10 Issue 1



On Our Cover

Epson Home
Cinema 3020 3D
1080p 3LCD Projector
SKU: 6871067
www.epson.com

Sony VAIO Tap 20
Mobile Desktop
SKU: 6851237
www.sony.com

3rd Gen Intel
Core i5-3317U
Processor-Powered
Sony VAIO T Series 13
Ultrabook
www.intel.com

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How To Get Big Sound In A Small Space

Soundbar Synergy

Your flat-panel HDTV is a streamlined device that can really impress, so why not pair it with a slim soundbar? This sleek speaker bar simulates surround sound from a single unit. A soundbar is easy to set up, and it's a great choice for an oddly shaped or small room.

HOME THEATER

Sony 40" 3D Sound Bar System (HT-CT550W)



From One, Many

A soundbar looks like an unusually long speaker unit. It's intended to lie horizontally just below or above your HDTV screen. Inside a soundbar cabinet is an array of left, right, and center speakers. Using techniques such as reflecting off your walls, a soundbar can vividly simulate surround sound. In fact, in most cases, it can fool your ears into "hearing" side and rear speakers that aren't there. Many soundbars come with a wired or wireless subwoofer for deep bass.

Zero-Hassle Setup

It's really easy to install a soundbar, especially when you compare it to a traditional, multi-speaker surround-sound system. Connect one or two cables, and you're done. Because a soundbar doesn't require rear or side speakers, you won't need to string speaker wires across your room, tuck them under your baseboards, or route them through your walls. And speaking of your walls, you won't need to drill holes around the room to mount multiple speakers.

Make Any Room An HT

Some rooms just aren't good candidates for a traditional surround-sound setup, which works best when you place its four or six satellite speakers the same distance from your seat. If your home theater is irregularly shaped, or if there's a staircase behind your sofa, it could be difficult to mount surround speakers for optimal audio. A soundbar doesn't have this disadvantage—it can simulate multichannel audio convincingly in most types of rooms.

What's The Difference?

HDTV Screen Types

To pinpoint the best type of HDTV for your needs, you should consider the type of content you want to watch and the typical amount of light in the room. Here's a look at each screen technology's strengths and suitabilities.

HOME THEATER



LCD TVs

LCD TVs (liquid-crystal displays) are similar to computer screens, but they're bigger and easier to view at an angle. Traditional LCDs get their light from CCFLs (cold cathode fluorescent lamps).

- Ideal for wall mounting because they are thin and lightweight
- Consume a little less power than plasma TVs
- Suitable for rooms with windows

LED TVs

An LED (light-emitting diode) TV is actually a type of LCD TV. Instead of a CCFL backlight, however, its light comes from a panel of LEDs (full-array or full-matrix) or rows of LEDs around the screen (edge-lit).

- Very bright, but use a lot less electricity than other HDTVs
- Can be thinner than other TVs
- Rich, detailed dark colors, especially models with local dimming

Plasma TVs

To create images that are colorful, vibrant, and clear, plasma TVs electrically charge small cells that contain ionized gas.

- Deep blacks and rich colors
- Very smooth on-screen motion for sports and action films
- A more cost-efficient technology for large TV screen sizes
- Best viewed in a dark home theater

Play It On The Big Screen

From Laptop To HDTV

Your laptop is an amazing hub of A/V entertainment. If only it had a bigger screen. . . a *much* bigger screen, such as your HDTV. Using an HDMI cable or wireless HD technology, you can send your laptop's video and audio to your home theater.

HOME THEATER



Your Media On The Big Screen

Your Ultrabook or laptop has your photos and home movies on it—the media that's most precious to you and your family. Why crowd around a tiny screen when you could easily enjoy it on your HDTV? An HDMI cable or a wireless HD kit let you put your special memories on the big screen.

Get The Blues

Your new laptop came with a Blu-ray drive, but you haven't yet bought such a player for your home theater. Not to worry; you can play a Blu-ray movie on your HDTV over HDMI. Alternatively, you can use a TV and laptop with wireless HD built-in or added with an adapter (sold separately).

YouTube Night!

You know the drill: Someone sends you a funny video, you laugh, and your family members all say "Let me see!" Send it wirelessly to the big screen, where the whole family can enjoy it. With no cable between your laptop and TV, you won't have to worry about tripping your kids, pets, or spouse.

Ceiling Projector

You'll really appreciate the convenience of wireless HD technology if you have a projector in your home theater. Often mounted on the ceiling or in the back of the room, projectors can be inconvenient to reach with an HDMI cable from your laptop. A one-time installation of a wireless adapter can solve this problem for good.

Customize Your HT, Amplify Your Fun

Max Out Your Game

Whether you're slashing through hordes of monsters, racing for the finish line, or simply lining up a chip shot, gaming is meant to be a sensory experience. Enhance your home theater with the right components, and you'll turbocharge your gameplay.

HOME THEATER



Get In The Game

Create a more exciting gaming environment by playing on a big screen.

- Add lifelike quality to every game with a big TV or projector screen.
- Make it easy for a large group of players to see a clear picture with a TV that has a wide viewing angle.
- Put on 3D eyewear to play thrilling, three-dimensional games with your compatible TV or projector.

Organize Accessories

Well-designed gaming furniture can keep your gear uncluttered.

- Use a universal storage mount to rack up games and controllers, as well as guitars, steering wheels, gun attachments, and other accessories.
- Organize items for your game console in racks and shelving systems.
- Stow accessories in gaming chairs that include compartments.

Feel Every Sound

Gaming action can sound amazing through surround sound speakers.

- Throw yourself into the game world with a 5.1- or 7.1-channel audio system.
- Feel the thumping beats in sports and action games with a subwoofer.
- Free up more room for motion gaming by mounting your speakers on your walls.

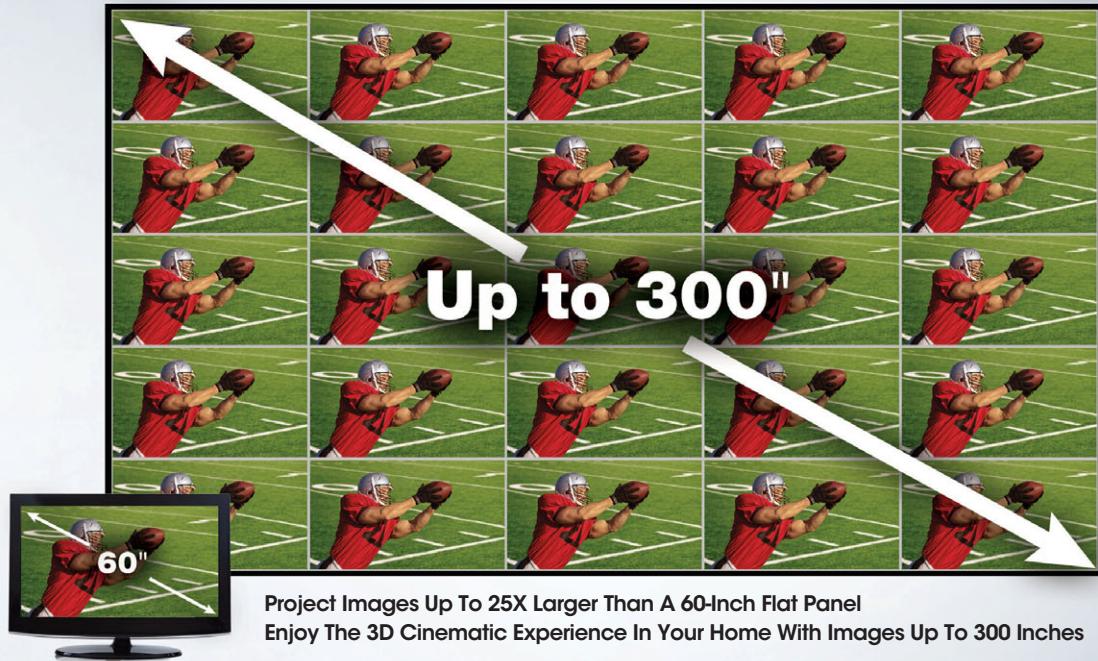
Epson Home Cinema 3020 Projector

EPSON
EXCEED YOUR VISION

2D & 3D Entertainment

You'll never have to sacrifice color brightness for display size with an Epson Home Cinema projector (www.epson.com). In fact, you'll experience true-to-life color brightness whether you're enjoying a movie night, watching online content, or viewing photos.

HOME THEATER



Epson Home Cinema 3020 3D 1080p 3LCD Projector
SKU: 6871067



See Impressive Image Quality & Stunning Color Brightness

No matter if you're watching high-definition content in a dark home theater or a brightly-lit living room, it's possible to enjoy vivid images that are jaw-droppingly beautiful. To achieve this luminosity, a projector must have high color brightness and high white brightness. Epson understands this, and that's why its line of projectors are built to display images that are vibrant and never washed out.

Enjoy The 3D Cinematic Experience At Home

A 60-inch flat panel HDTV will appear almost minuscule when you compare it to the 25X larger display you are able to produce with the Epson Home Cinema 3020. More specifically, you can display 2D and 3D content up to 300 inches in size. In addition, the projector is super portable and easy to install, so it won't be a hassle to move. This makes it the perfect solution for get-togethers to enjoy bigger-than-life entertainment, such as this year's Super Bowl.

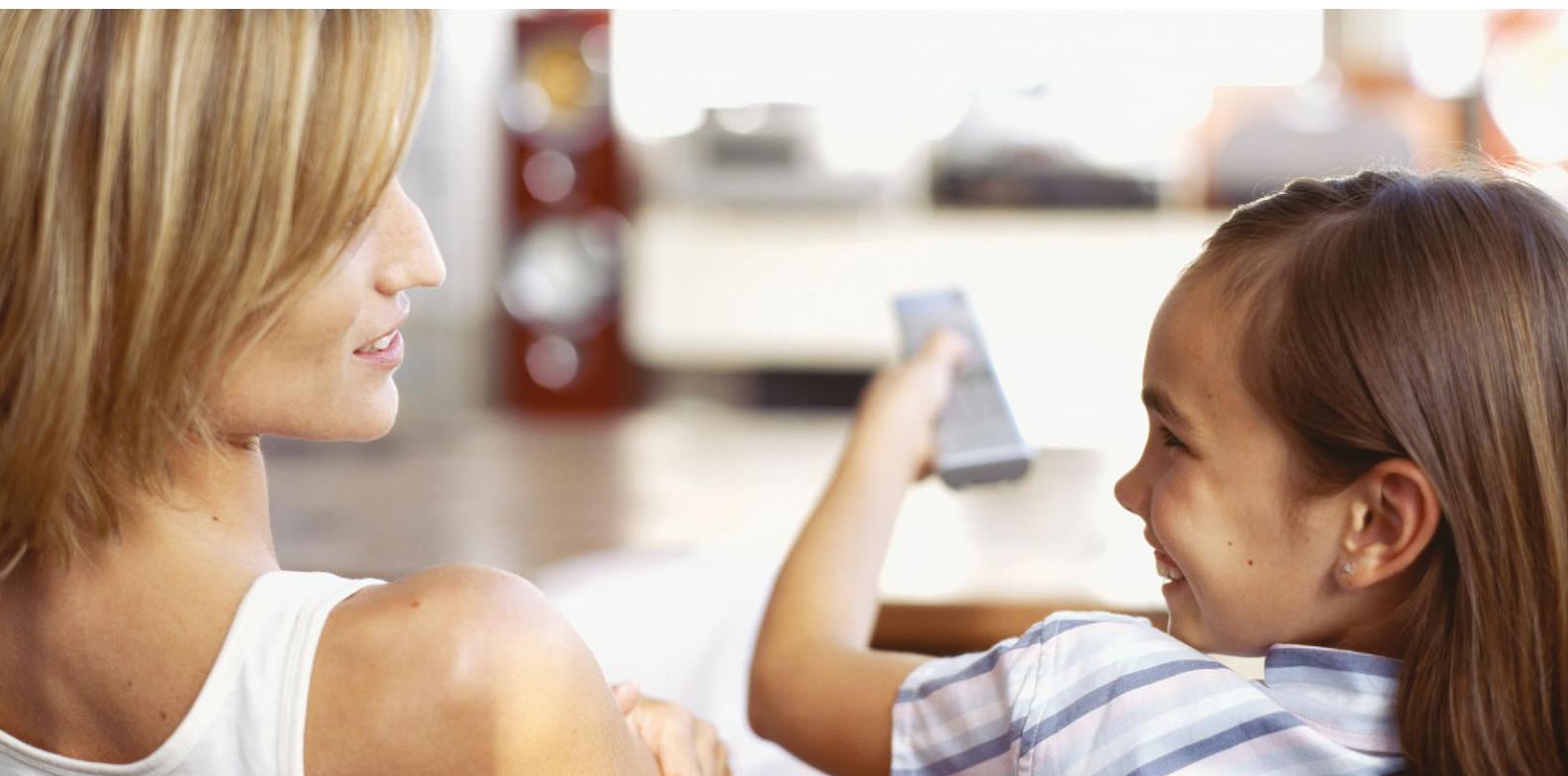
View Entertainment In Big, Beautiful Colors

Film buffs or Blu-ray Disc fans are sure to find an Epson projector that delivers an HD experience to match their needs. Each model is versatile, compact, and delivers a grand cinematic experience. For example, the Epson Home Cinema 3020 3D 1080p 3LCD Projector features 2300 lumens of color brightness and 2300 lumens of white brightness; two 10 W stereo speakers; and WirelessHD for cable-free installation (3020e model).

How To Take Your Home Theater Online Set Up Smart TV Apps

Smart home theater devices—such as TVs, A/V receivers, and Blu-ray players—come with on-screen apps that let you tap into online services including Netflix, Pandora, and Hulu Plus. Here's what you should know in order to make the connection.

HOME THEATER



Lay The Groundwork

If you haven't yet bought a smart device, ask a store associate about specific model capabilities. For example, some older devices might offer only a limited selection of YouTube videos or be unable to display photos in Facebook posts. Speaking of Facebook (and services such as Netflix and Amazon Instant Video), you'll need to have an existing account set up before you can use that app on your TV.

For smooth video streaming from the Internet, a smart home theater device requires a fast link to a broadband connection. In other words, you'll need to connect it to your home network router with Ethernet cable, powerline adapters, or Wi-Fi N or AC (not Wi-Fi G, B, or A).

Enjoy Web Content On The Big Screen

To help your TV or other smart HT device establish communication with your network and the Internet, you may need to adjust the device's network settings using its remote. If you're setting up a Wi-Fi link to your smart device, you'll probably have to enter your network's passphrase. Restart your router, modem, and smart device once or twice to help them recognize each other. Once your smart device detects a connection to the Web, it may begin to update its firmware. Let it do so, and then restart it. Finally, launch an app on your TV using the smart device's remote. If it gives you a short code to enter on a certain Web page, you'll need to do that via a computer. After a few minutes (and perhaps another smart device restart) the app should begin to work.

Why It's Smart To Buy HT Devices In A Store Shop In Person

Certain things are just better to shop for in a real, bricks-and-mortar store. Home theater devices are definitely on this list. Besides the fact that a store has helpful staff to answer your questions, there are many other practical reasons to shop in the real world.

HOME THEATER



HDTVs

You'll spend many hours gazing at your new HDTV, so you'd better be happy with its picture quality before you buy it. An electronics store gives you an opportunity to see a TV's picture first-hand, and to compare it to other models and brands. Moreover, buying locally reduces the chance of damage to the TV in transit.

Speaker Systems

Like a TV, a sound system is another part of your home theater you should try before you buy. An electronics store may let you hear how different speakers sound, as good audio quality is somewhat subjective. You'll also get a feel for how large a subwoofer or floorstanding speaker will seem once you get it home.

Headphones

Comfort is crucial in a pair of home theater headphones, as you'll probably be wearing them for a few hours at a time. As you try on various headphones for fit, you can also get a feel for each pair's sound quality. For wireless 'phones, make sure that their audio doesn't suffer from outside interference.

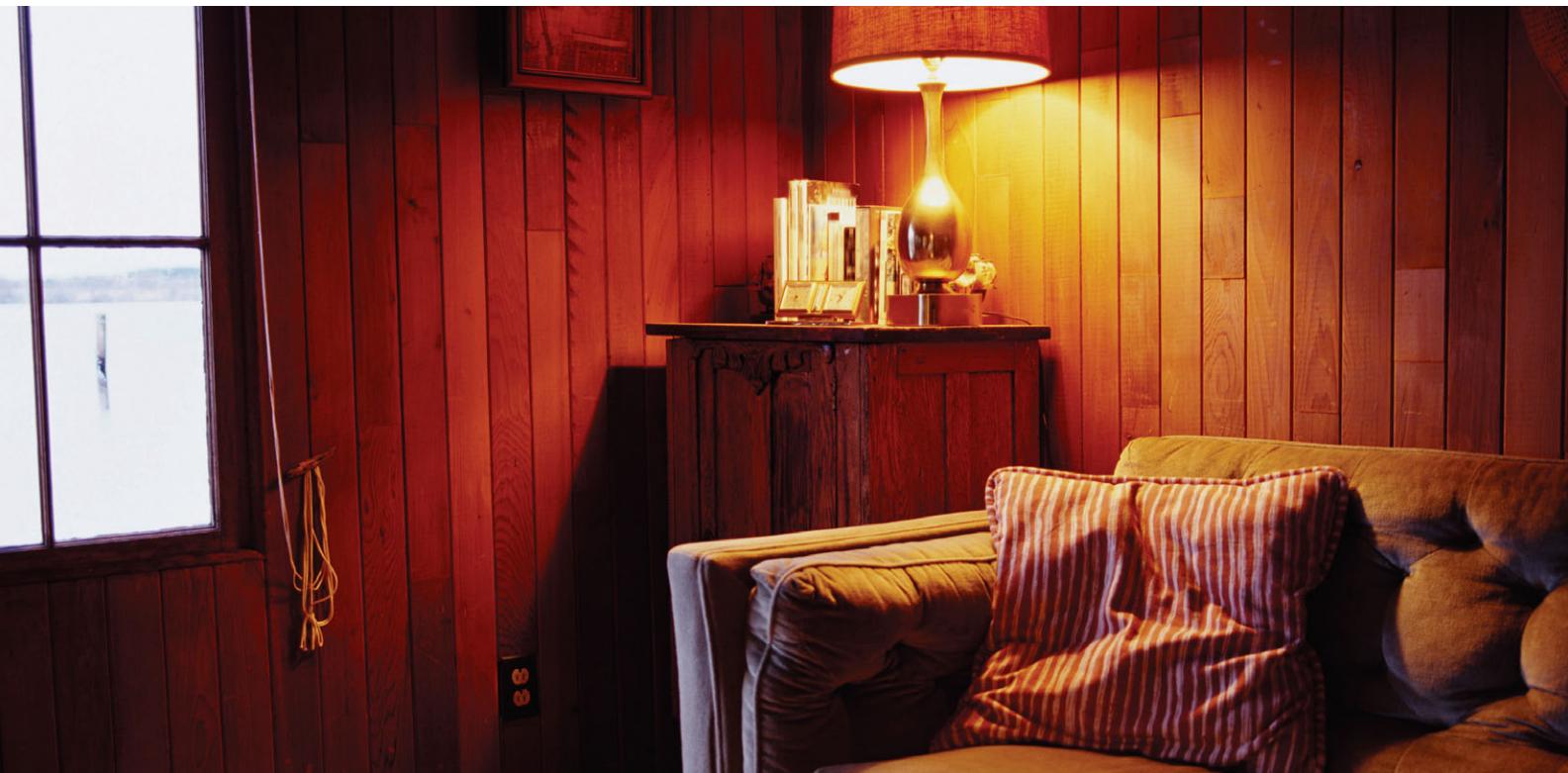
Other Reasons

The most obvious benefit to shopping locally is the fact that you can often take your purchase home right away instead of waiting for a shipment. Also, more and more states are requiring online retailers to collect sales tax. Add in shipping charges, and buying online may no longer be the money-saving option it once was.

Get The High Picture Quality You Paid For Calibrate Your HDTV

Retail stores may tweak HDTVs' video settings to look their best in a bright, fluorescent-lit environment. Because your home theater's lighting is probably quite different, you need your HDTV professionally calibrated to match its unique setting.

HOME THEATER



Why Have Your TV Calibrated?

- With proper calibration to your room's lighting, the quality of your HDTV's on-screen images will look more true to life. Notably, skin tones and snow scenes won't appear off-color.
- Your TV's contrast will yield brighter whites and darker blacks, letting you see details you wouldn't have noticed before.
- Cable management—which is a part of the professional calibration service—tidies up your home theater setup and makes it easy to identify cable inputs and outputs.

Here's What Will Happen:

- An ISF-certified installer will visit your home and optimize your HDTV's video settings so you can enjoy HD content the way it's intended to look.
- Using professional calibration tools, the installer will adjust video settings to meet ISF standards on two different source inputs.
- To straighten up your home theater's appearance, the installer will dress all cables and wires behind your HDTV.
- The installer can even explain to you any special features or capabilities of your HDTV's remote control.

For Movies, TV Shows & Games Anytime

HT Headphones

Ever want to watch something on TV when your roommate is napping, the kids are in bed, or your spouse doesn't want to hear it? Home theater headphones make viewing much more enjoyable than turning on subtitles and turning down the volume.

HOME THEATER

Logitech UE 6000
Over-the-Ear Headphones



HT Models

Home-theater headphones—wired or wireless—are built for comfort and audio fidelity. Wireless models use IR (infrared), RF (radio frequency), or Kleer uncompressed RF technologies. IR units have a reputation for resisting interference, while the two RF technologies may allow you to listen to audio from another room.

Transmitters

Home theater styles of wireless headphones generally come with a transmitter. This AC- or battery-powered unit receives audio from your HT device(s), such as your A/V receiver, and sends it wirelessly to the headphones. Some models support multiple headsets, so several family members can enjoy the same program quietly.

Features

Some transmitters double as docking stations for the headphones, making it easy to recharge their batteries. Speaking of battery life, you want a set of headphones that will last through several movies if necessary. And if you plan to use the headset from a distance, make note of its range for usage, such as 100 feet.

Comfort & Sound

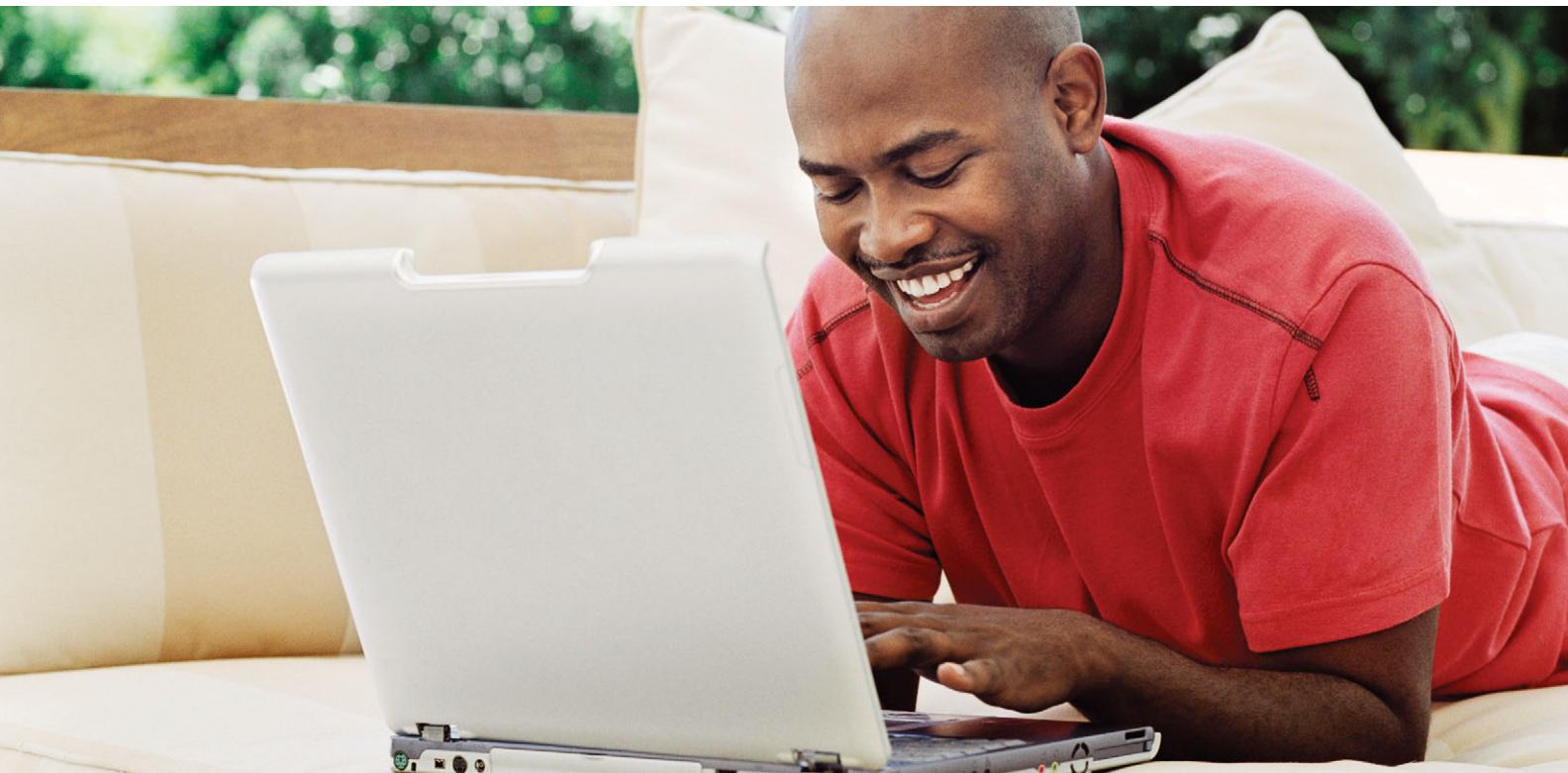
Choose a set of HT headphones that you find comfortable. After all, you don't want to have to take them off halfway through a big game or Harry Potter movie. Likewise, try several models to see which ones sound the best to you. To this end, you'll find that some models employ sound enhancement technologies.

Make Your Smart TV Any Way You Like

A Home Theater PC

Connect your TV to a computer—be it a laptop, an all-in-one, or a desktop PC—and you'll have a powerhouse of digital entertainment at your disposal. All you need is an HDMI cable or a wireless HD kit to attach your PC to your HDTV or A/V receiver.

HOME THEATER



Entertainment Without Boundaries

Unlike a game console or smart device, a computer doesn't limit you to particular Web sites, services, or apps.

- Watch video from any streaming service or site
- Surf the entire Web with your choice of browser
- Enjoy your own videos, photos, and music
- Choose the media player software that's easiest for you to use and navigate
- Easily upgrade to new A/V formats and technologies

Recommended Components

The following are smart things for an HTPC to have. It's easiest to upgrade a desktop computer with some or all of these parts, but options exist for notebooks and AIOs.

- A recent graphics card with HD video and audio support (such as DTS-HD Master Audio bitstreaming)
- A large hard drive for your video, music, and photos, along with any TV shows you record
- A remote and/or a wireless mouse and keyboard
- A TV tuner card for viewing and recording programs

Add Style & Comfort With HT Furniture

You carefully researched and purchased your ideal home theater system, and now you have a great setup to entertain friends or enjoy on your own. Now all you need is the right furniture to make your media room both relaxing and functional.

HOME THEATER



Get The Best Seat

- Cup holders prevent spills that can stain your rug or kill your remote. Get these practical necessities in HT recliners and modular furniture.
- Design your own seating arrangement with high-end recliners that provide cozy places to lie back and enjoy the show.
- Gaming chairs with built-in speakers help you hear every critical sound without disturbing everyone else.

Corral Components

- A/V equipment stands often have shelves that can hold your A/V receiver, Blu-ray player, game console, or DVR.
- Ottomans and coffee tables can double as storage units, thanks to built-in compartments that can organize Blu-ray Discs, video games, remotes, and more.
- Storage racks can organize your various game controllers, too.

Match Your Home Decor

- Create a sleek media room with leather seating that resists spills and pet hair.
- HDTV wall mounts are available in full-motion, tilt, and low-profile configurations to accommodate various room layouts.
- Speaker stands provide sturdy bases for surround speakers. Some let you adjust their height to the level of your ears when you're seated.

Smart HT Devices Bring Home The Fun

TV Apps

Sights, sounds, and social interaction—that's what you can find with a smart HT device and a broadband connection. A smart TV, Blu-ray player, HTPC, or other device may come with (or let you download) popular apps such as the ones below.

HOME THEATER



Netflix

Tap into this popular subscription service for thousands of streaming, full-length HD movies, TV series, and kids' shows.



YouTube

From the latest viral videos to how-to tutorials, and from documentaries to musical performances, YouTube has it.



Pandora Radio

Internet radio attuned to your personal taste. Enter a favorite song or artist, and Pandora will stream similar music to you.



CinemaNow

Best Buy CinemaNow offers new release movies and next-day TV in HD video and surround sound.



Skype

With a Web cam/microphone accessory, usually sold separately, you can turn your TV into a futuristic video phone.



Facebook

Keep in touch with friends and family members through Facebook. Post status updates, share your pics, and send private messages.



Hulu Plus

Your subscription gives you access to current episodes and entire seasons of popular TV shows in up to HD resolution.



Flickr

This app puts you in command of your gallery on the Flickr photo sharing site. Organize, edit, and share your images.



Picasa

Enhance your photo organization with this app. It links you to your account on the useful Picasa photo site.



Twitter

Follow your favorite artists, public figures, and breaking news sources. Post brief "tweets" to your own followers.

The Broad Range Of HDTV Features

Get The Right HDTV

The phrase, "you get what you pay for," rings true when you're shopping for an HDTV. There are plenty of capabilities you may find to be worth a little extra investment. Here's a look at typical high-end, mid-range, and entry-level features.

HOME THEATER

Sony BRAVIA KDL50EX645
50-inch Smart LED TV



\$\$\$

- A screen that's larger than 50 inches measured diagonally
- Smart TV apps for online movies, music, sports, weather, and more
- Memory card and USB drive support to play your media files
- Optimal video technologies such as smooth motion to make fast-action scenes move more fluidly and Deep Color to produce more accurate hues

\$\$

- Typically have enough inputs to connect a few components, such as a disc player, game console, and set-top box (higher-end models likely have even more)
- Some can connect to the Web using Wi-Fi, Ethernet, or both
- May offer built-in apps or app downloads and full Web browsing
- Easy-to-navigate menus and settings

\$

- Screens are generally 40 inches or less with a 720p resolution
- Don't offer nearly as many inputs or outputs to connect to other devices
- Included video technologies are good, but they don't match the advanced performance of high-end TVs
- A basic HDTV might be your best option if you have a small budget to build an entire home theater setup

Tame Those Tangles In Your Home Theater Manage Your Cables

Cables carry power to your home theater components, not to mention audio and video to your speakers and TV. Of course, if you'd rather see the entertainment on-screen than the multitude of cables that make it possible, here's some help.

HOME THEATER

Actiontec MyWirelessTV Wireless HD Video Kit



Straps & Wraps

Organizing your cables becomes a lot easier if you tie them together in a more manageable bundle. There's a huge variety of straps, ties, and cable wraps you can use to combine and route your cords. Most are not only easy to use, but also easy to remove should you later want to add or rearrange devices.

Conduits & Plates

More permanent solutions to cable clutter include conduits and wall plates. Conduits, also called raceways, hide your cables as they channel them along a wall or baseboard. Should you need to route cables through a wall or ceiling, a wall plate can cover the hole and make it look more attractive.

Special Tools

Stores that sell cable management supplies may also sell the various tools you may need to get the job done. If you're planning to install conduit or run your cables through walls or ceilings, for example, you might need an electric screwdriver with multiple bits, a flashlight, a tape measure, and other tools.

Wireless Options

In some cases, the best cable management technique is to get *rid* of a cable—that is, to replace it with a wireless system. For instance, a wireless HD set employs a transmitter and receiver to carry high-def content from one device, such as a Blu-ray Disc player, to your HDTV without the need for a long HDMI cable.

FirstGlimpse

Easy Ways To Enjoy Photos On Your TV

We've all snapped a ton of digital photos, but we don't tend to look at them very often. And when we do, it's usually on the small screen of a computer or phone. Why not put those photos on the big screen for the whole family to enjoy?

HOME THEATER

Canon EOS Rebel T4i DSLR



Cable It In

If your camera came with an HDMI adapter cable, you may be able to plug it directly into your TV or A/V receiver to show off its photos.

You can also use an HDMI cable to connect your TV to your computer, which offers a variety of ways to display your images.

Get Carded

If your TV, receiver, Blu-ray player, or other HT device has a memory card slot, such as for your camera's SD card, it might be able to play a slideshow of the JPEG or other image (and video) files stored on the card. If your camera uses a tiny card format such as microSD, you may need to use an inexpensive adapter.

Use USB

Many game consoles, HDTVs, and other devices come with a USB port or two. Some are nothing more than firmware update ports, but many recent devices let you display certain photo files from your USB flash drive or external hard drive. (Drives with the FAT32 file system are more likely to be compatible.)

Make Slideshows

With photo or video editing software, you can use your computer to create a DVD slideshow of your favorite images, complete with transitions, titles, and music.

For sharper results with your HDTV and Blu-ray player, tell the software to write the DVD as an AVCHD disc.

Four Products To Build A Media Powerhouse

Not every home theater has to have an HDTV. In fact, a projector is a good way to maximize your budget while you enjoy a larger picture. Here's what you need to build a home cinema with a projector as your cornerstone.

HOME THEATER

Epson® Home Cinema 3020 3D 1080p 3LCD Projector



Projector

If you're looking for larger-than-life entertainment at a price that won't change your life, consider buying a home theater projector. It can throw an image that's larger than most HDTV screens. A good home theater projector offers Full HD 1080p resolution and a high number of lumens for a bright, sharp picture.

Mount & Screen

In order to properly install your projector in your home theater, you'll need a mount. Most attach to the ceiling, but there are others that can hang a projector on a wall. You'll also need a projector screen, which can range anywhere in diagonal size from 80 to 140 inches or greater, and can be mounted to either a ceiling or wall.

HTiB

Whether your home theater uses an HDTV or a projector, an HTiB (home theater in a box) surround-sound system can greatly enhance your entertainment experience. Some HTiBs are Internet-connectable, so you can expand your media options with Web services such as Netflix, YouTube, CinemaNow, and more.

HD Connection

For the best in image and sound quality, you can use high-quality HDMI cables to connect your HT components to your projector. Alternatively, you can forgo cable altogether and use a wireless HD solution. This can send HD content to your projector from any device with an HDMI output. Wireless HD makes setting up a projector much easier.

Make Your Existing Sound System More Impressive Upgrade Your 5.1

Remember how your surround-sound system first sounded compared to your TV speakers? Some new components can make your 5.1-channel setup even better. If it's modest or showing its age, you can easily increase its audio quality and feature set.

HOME THEATER



A Receiver Transplant

A new A/V receiver could bring a wealth of new entertainment options to your home theater. For example, new models come with smart apps that let you watch online video from Netflix, YouTube, and more. If your existing receiver doesn't decode Blu-ray sound formats such as DTS-HD Master Audio and Dolby TrueHD, a new unit can. A new receiver may also support more speakers, higher volume without distortion, and satellite or HD radio.

Full-Range Speakers

If your existing 5.1 system was an HTiB (home theater in a box), its satellite (surround) speakers may be relatively small and unable to reproduce lower frequency sounds. Swap those satellites for floorstanding speakers, which make much better, full-range (high/mid/low) sound (adjust your receiver's speaker settings for full-range use.) Alternatively, replace only the front left and right satellites, and repurpose them as rear speakers for a 7.1-channel setup.

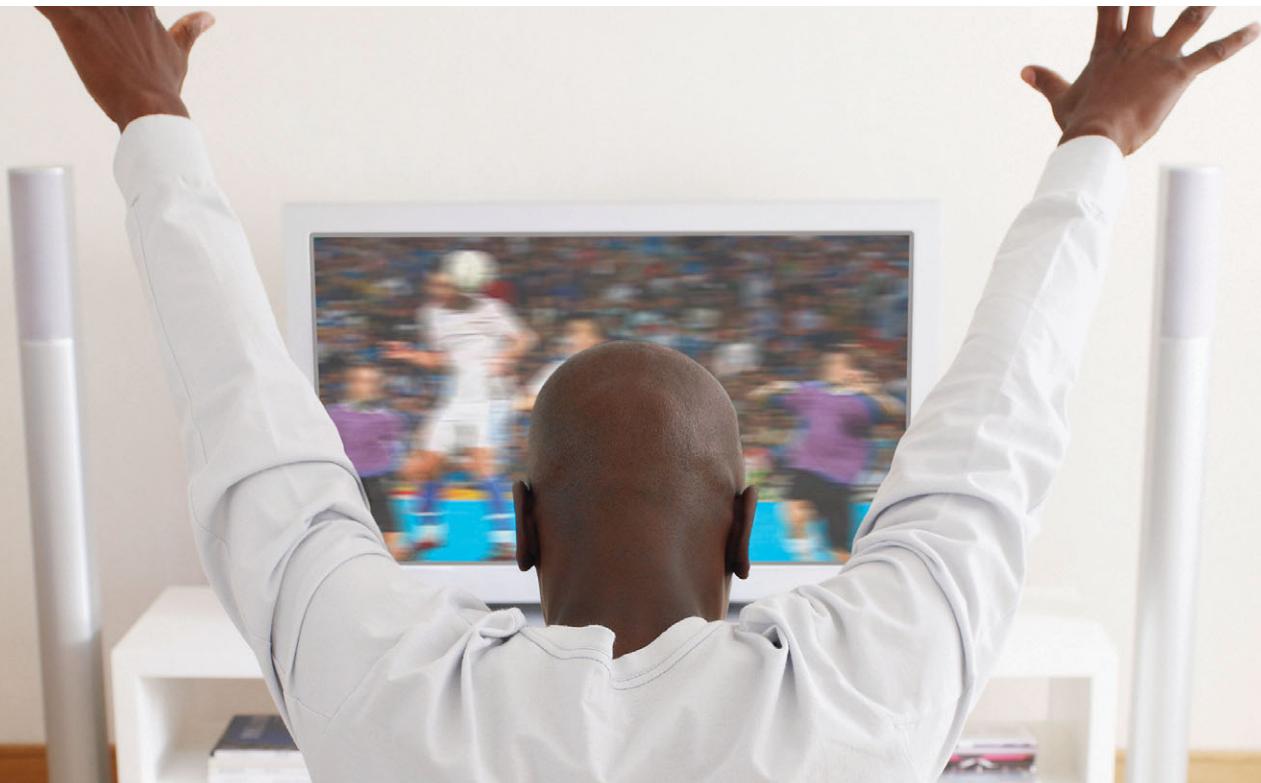
Go Deep

For greater gravitas and more radical rumbles, you can replace your subwoofer with a higher-wattage model that has a larger-diameter speaker. Alternatively, if your receiver is a 7.2- or 9.2-channel unit, it can support a second subwoofer for more volume at the low end. A second sub on the opposite side of your TV can also balance out the direction of the sound's origin. (Deep bass is non-directional in theory, but not always in practice, with HT subwoofers.)

A/V Receiver Settings May Improve Your HT Audio Use Sound Modes

You can change the way your movies, music, and games sound with your surround sound system's various audio processing modes. This is a look at some of the settings you may encounter, including examples from real-world A/V receivers.

HOME THEATER



By Type Of Audio

Some A/V receivers offer various sound modes for specific types of audio. For instance, its movie settings may give you sound modes for dramas, spectacle blockbusters, and more. Likewise, its music modes may make songs sound like they're being played in an arena, pump up the bass of dance music, and so on.

By Technology

Your receiver might let you choose processing technologies by name. As an example, if your game console produces Dolby Pro Logic II sound, you should set your receiver accordingly. This mode and others, such as DTS Neo, alter movie, music, and game audio to fit the number of speakers you have in your system.

Enhance It

Some A/V receivers have special processing modes for media files that have been heavily compressed, such as MP3 files and YouTube video clips. These enhancement modes try to bring out parts of the audio typically lost in popular compressed file formats, sometimes making it sound better and clearer.

Direct Approach

Of course, the best audio processing just might be none at all. Depending on your speakers, and the sound quality of your media, you might get the best-sounding audio by turning your receiver's sound processing completely off (sometimes called direct mode), especially for Blu-rays and well-mastered DVDs/CDs.

More Than Just Gaming

Consoles For Your HT

Game consoles might as well be renamed “media consoles” because they do much more than just let you play games. You can watch movies, stream music, and enjoy other home theater benefits—but that’s not all.

HOME THEATER



Tap The Stream

It's worth connecting a video game console to your network: Many give you access to streaming services such as Netflix, YouTube, CinemaNow, Hulu Plus, and Amazon, as well as *a la carte* movie rentals. Consoles can also stream your personal music and video collection from computers on your home network.

Blu-ray & DVD

Consoles may also let you watch movie and TV show discs, including 3D Blu-ray titles in some cases. (A remote control available for separate purchase also lets you manage playback just like a traditional disc player.) Most consoles can also play video, photo, and audio files from USB drives and/or flash memory cards, too.

Keep In Touch

You can access Facebook, Twitter, and other social networks on various consoles. Some even let you place video phone calls using camera, microphone, and/or headset accessories. Headsets also let you chat with other players during online gameplay. Finally, you can send messages to friends who own the same console.

Access The Web

Game consoles can give you feeds of online information such as weather, news, and sports, often with interesting graphics such as maps and images. Consoles also provide browser access to the entire Internet. You'll be able to enlarge Web pages for easy viewing on your HDTV, bookmark favorite sites, and more.

HOME THEATER ACCESSORY



Hang Your TV On The Wall For Viewing Flexibility

Wall Mounts

One of the attractions of a flat-panel HDTV is the fact that you can hang it on your wall. With a wall mount, you may be able to tilt your TV for an optimum viewing angle, get rid of your old TV stand or entertainment center, and reclaim some floor space.

Perfect For: Flat-panel TV owners who would like to take advantage of the modern home theater layout possibilities that a thin HDTV provides.

HOME THEATER ACCESSORY



Make It Easy To Control Your Home Theater

Universal Remotes

A universal remote lets you put all your other remotes away. Rather than rely on multiple remote controls to take command of your various home theater devices, you can streamline your setup with one remote to control them all.

Perfect For: Anyone who wants to enjoy the entertainment potential of a home theater, but doesn't need the complexity or confusion of two or more remotes to run an HDTV, set-top box, Blu-ray Disc player, and so on.

HOME THEATER ACCESSORY



Experience The Excitement Of HD Video & Audio

Blu-ray Disc Players

A Blu-ray Disc player not only plays Blu-ray movies in stunning Full HD 1080p resolution, it also upconverts your DVDs to look great on your HDTV screen. Many models can stream online video from YouTube, Netflix, Best Buy CinemaNow, and other Web services.

Perfect For: Movie buffs seeking to replace their old DVD players and enjoy the visual and audible thrills of HD entertainment.

HOME THEATER ACCESSORY



Protect Your Home Theater Investment

Surge Protectors & Power Conditioners

With a surge protector, you can guard your home theater devices from damage caused by electrical fluctuations. Further, a power conditioner will filter out "dirty power" (also known as electrical interference) that can degrade your audio and video.

Perfect For: Anyone who wants to safeguard their HDTV, sound system, game console, DVR, set-top box, Blu-ray Disc player, or home theater PC from power damage.

Home Theater Q&A

Cover The Basics

Creating the ideal home theater isn't a complicated process when you already know the answers to your biggest questions. In that vein, here's some information about home theater products and technologies that should help you make informed decisions.

HOME THEATER



**Sony BRAVIA KDL50EX645
50-inch Smart LED TV**



**Epson® Home Cinema 3020
3D 1080p 3LCD Projector**



**Logitech UE 6000
Over-the-Ear Headphones**

What are the advantages of an LED TV?

An LED-backlit LCD TV can provide a brighter picture while using less energy than other types of HDTVs. Edge-lit models can be made thinner than plasmas or traditional LCDs, while LED TVs with local dimming can approach the high contrast (dark detail) of a plasma set.

What do I need to connect my Internet-capable TV and other smart devices to the Web?

You need broadband service, a good router—preferably one with Gigabit Ethernet and Wi-Fi N or AC support—and possibly Wi-Fi or Ethernet adapters for your Internet-ready HT components. Use Ethernet cable, Wi-Fi, or a powerline kit to connect devices to the router.

Is there a way I can get a really big TV screen without paying an arm and a leg?

Yes. Consider a home theater projector. Many models can give you a 100-inch or even larger image. For the best picture quality, don't forget to buy a projector screen.

What does a surround-sound system include?

Home theater sound systems generally include an A/V receiver, which sends audio to the speakers and your choice of video source to the TV. Typically, they also come with a subwoofer for rich bass, a center channel speaker to emphasize dialogue, and a number of satellite (surround) speakers you can mount around the room. You can buy each component separately, or get a package deal with an HTiB (home theater in a box). Full-range speakers will produce the best sound.

How can I enjoy my home theater without disturbing others?

A pair of comfortable headphones should do the trick. Wireless headphones that use Kleer, RF, or IR technologies can be even more convenient for movies and games.

Glossary

Home Theater

Don't let unfamiliar jargon keep you from the thrills and excitement of your very own home theater. Before you shop, glance through this handy glossary for definitions of common terms.

HOME THEATER

#

4K

A new, Ultra High-Definition video format with four times the detail of Full HD 1080p. 4K typically has a resolution of 3,840 x 2,160 pixels.

5.1/7.1-channel

These describe the number of speakers in a surround sound system. A 5.1 setup, for example, has four satellites (surround speakers), a center channel, and a subwoofer (.1).

720p/1080i/1080p

These high-definition video formats are named for the height of the picture, namely 720 (1,280 x 720 pixels) and 1,080 (1,920 x 1,080).

A

A/V receiver

An audio amplifier that powers speakers and also acts as a video switch to select the source device shown on your TV.

aspect ratio

How wide a TV screen is compared to its height. HDTVs typically have a 16:9 aspect ratio, such as 1,920 x 1,080 pixels, to accommodate the wide aspect ratios of movies.

D

Dolby/DTS

Blu-ray discs and DVDs use audio formats from Dolby and DTS.

H

HDMI

The High-Definition Multimedia Interface is a type of cable connection that can carry both HD video and multichannel audio between your HDTV, receiver, and other components.

L

LCD

A liquid-crystal display TV uses an electrically sensitive gel to regulate pixels of color in front of a backlight. LCDs are lighter and more energy-efficient than plasma TVs, and also produce less heat. LCDs are also better suited to brighter rooms.

LED TV

This is an LCD that uses light-emitting diodes for backlight instead of CCFLs (cold cathode fluorescent lamps). This makes LED TVs, or LED-LCDs, more energy efficient than traditional LCDs and especially plasmas. Edge-lit models

have their LEDs arranged along the screen edges. Full-array or matrix models, backlit by a panel of LEDs, can turn down or turn off individual LEDs (local dimming) for high contrast.

P

plasma

Plasma TVs use a tiny tube of gas for each pixel, and electricity makes each pixel glow. Plasmas create very deep, dark colors (high contrast), in which black parts of the picture look truly black instead of gray. Sometimes plasmas produce brighter colors than traditional LCDs and have slightly better viewing angles.

S

smart device

A smart TV (or receiver, or game console, or Blu-ray player) can go online, such as to stream video.

U

Ultra HD

Another name for 4K video. UHD is intended to maintain incredible picture detail even on larger HDTV and projector screen sizes.

Compact System Camera Benefits Best Of Both Worlds

Compact system cameras fall between point-and-shoots and DSLRs in stature, while providing many features of both types of cameras. Here's a short list of what they have to offer.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Sony NEX-F3 Compact System Camera with 18-55mm Lens



Size

Compact system cameras are slightly larger than point-and-shoots, but smaller and lighter than most DSLRs. They're not made to slip into your pocket, although they do travel well in a purse or bag. It's this portability that lets a compact system come with you where a DSLR would simply be too bulky.

Lenses

Like a DSLR, a compact system camera lets you change its lenses. For example, you can use a telephoto lens to zoom in on your daughter at her school play. Later, at the wrap party, switch to a wide-angle lens to capture a photo of the entire cast in the confines of a restaurant booth.

Image Quality

The larger body of a compact system camera allows it to come with a bigger image sensor than a point-and-shoot. Bigger sensors can take clearer, cleaner photos and videos. They also tend to have larger pixels and a higher dynamic range, so the colors in your images will look more true to life.

Depth Of Field

With a compact system camera, you may have more flexibility in setting the range of focus in an image than you would with a point-and-shoot. For instance, if you're shooting a portrait with a compact system camera, you might find it easier to set a shallow depth of field and soften the focus everywhere but your subject's face.

Cameras With Future-Proof Features Built To Last

If you're shopping for a new camera with longevity in mind, there are some key features to look for. A camera that produces great-looking images and sports a durable design can be your photography companion for many years to come.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Capture High-Quality Images

Vivid, sharp, and true-to-life images can be yours with a camera that has a first-rate image sensor, image processor, and lens. For instance, you'll find some durable cameras that have high-sensitivity CMOS sensors to deliver images with less noise and improved image detail, especially in low-light settings.

Quickly Freeze Moments In Time

To ensure that you capture every special moment, especially the unexpected ones, look for a camera that powers on, focuses, and snaps subsequent shots quickly. Try a camera with a fast shutter speed priority or high-speed sequential shooting, such as 5fps, for the best results.

Survive Harsh Conditions

With water-, shock-, crush-, freeze-, and dust-proof features, a camera can survive many detrimental scenarios. What's more, a tough camera model lets you shoot in situations most cameras can't tolerate, such as underwater, in the snow, on the beach, in the rain, and more.

Expand Your Capabilities

Cameras that accept different lenses, lens converters, flashes, or other add-ons let you break new boundaries with your photography. By adding a fisheye lens to a compatible camera, you can shoot with a wider angle to frame a large group of people or a sunset on the horizon.

Go Easy On The Wallet & Shoot With The Best

Many photographers want a high-quality lens or more powerful camera, but they can't justify the premium cost. If you can't afford upfront costs today, you can take advantage of in-store financing to take home the equipment you used to dream about.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Sign Up For A Card

CE retailers offer monthly financing so you can pay in small increments for your purchase, rather than a huge lump sum. This option is often available when you sign up for an in-store credit card. By making this small commitment, you'll be able to take your new digital imaging item home and use it right away.

Choose A Finance Plan

If you don't have the funds to pay now, you can often choose a long-term financing plan that lasts anywhere from six to up to 36 months. (The total cost of your purchase may determine which payment plan you're eligible for.) In general, annual financing fees are waived if you pay with your in-store credit card.

Bypass Interest Payments

You really can take home that feature-packed HD camcorder you've been eyeing, without paying interest. You don't have to compromise your long-term financial goals either: If you pay off your total balance in full by the end of your financing term and you don't miss any monthly payments, you'll be debt free.

Get Rewarded For Purchases

An in-store credit card goes beyond a spending account. As a cardholder, you're also eligible for exclusive discounts and events, plus extended return policies. And with every purchase you make, you can earn points toward gift certificates you can use in-store or online.

Gain More Creativity With Flashes & Filters

Unique Photo Results

Flashes and filters are two camera accessories that can either add or block light to help you achieve particular photo results. While a flash can help evenly light settings, a filter can enhance colors, boost contrast, and more.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Light Up The Darkness

A flash gives you better control of your lighting conditions when you take photos, particularly when you can direct the angle of the flash. By adding an external flash to your camera, you can cast indirect light onto your subject by reflecting it off a ceiling or a bounce card. Indirect illumination casts softer shadows and looks more like natural light.

A quality external camera flash can adequately light your subjects from a distance so that their faces don't look too dark. More specifically, a dedicated camera flash can offset shadows caused by sunlight above or behind someone's face. Your smartphone's built-in camera flash may not be powerful enough to illuminate these types of dark areas.

Good Light In, Bad Light Out

UV filters can protect your camera's image sensor and improve photo quality by getting rid of the bluish haze caused by ultraviolet light. Other filter types offer different benefits. For example, a circular polarized filter can reduce white glare and enhance your subject's color and contrast. It will also eliminate reflections from non-metallic surfaces.

Some filters add enhancements that can make images appear almost magical. For instance, a diffusion filter can soften edges or blur the background to change the aesthetics of a still image. And for a truly unique result, an 8-point star filter can make celestial rays of light emanate from reflections and other light sources.

Point & Shoot Camera Lenses

Pick The Right Angle

Point-and-shoot camera lenses come in three different flavors: standard, wide-angle, and ultra-wide-angle. Depending on which type you choose, you can use a particular focal length range to produce unique photo results. Here's a look at what you can do with each.

DIGITAL IMAGING



WIDE-ANGLE



STANDARD

ULTRA-WIDE-ANGLE

Standard Lenses

- Generally they have a focal length range starting between 30 and 50mm and reaching 180mm or more.
- The higher starting focal length range creates a smaller viewing angle, so photos have the same natural perspective of how your eyes see a subject.
- This type of lens lets you capture a moment exactly the way you see it.

Wide-Angle Lenses

- Most have focal lengths starting as low as 26mm and ranging up to 140mm or more.
- A lower-starting focal length range translates to a larger viewing angle, so you can capture more of the action in a single frame.
- This lens makes it easier to capture an entire scene in one frame, without needing to physically back up a great distance.

Ultra-Wide-Angle Lenses

- The focal length of an ultra-wide-angle lens starts at 24mm or less.
- This lens exaggerates perspectives even more than cameras with typical wide-angle lenses.
- In photos taken with an ultra-wide angle lens, the objects in the foreground appear imaginatively larger than objects in the background.

Check Out Your Next Camera's Image Sensor

Digital cameras use a special chip called an image sensor to capture photos and video. It's sort of a reusable substitute for the film that old cameras used. Before you buy a new camera, take a moment to learn why its image sensor is so important.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Decipher Sensor Specs

Camera vendors use image sensors made with various technologies. Most are CMOS (complementary metal-oxide semiconductor) sensors, but some are BSI (back side illuminated) CMOS for better low light performance or CCD (charge-coupled device) in high-end cameras. All three sensor types are capable of taking very good pictures, so the main thing to consider is the image quality of the photos and videos a particular camera can produce.

Size Really Does Matter

Most point-and-shoot cameras' sensors are roughly half an inch in diagonal size, such as 1/2.3-inch or a larger 1/1.7-inch. Most sensors of an inch or bigger—the kind used in DSLR and compact system cameras—have non-numeric names such as Four Thirds or APS-C. Bigger sensors tend to capture light with less electronic noise, resulting in crisper and clearer images. This is why the tiny sensors in typical cell phone cameras produce grainier pictures than most point-and-shoots.

Megapixels' Real Benefit

It's no longer true that the more megapixels (MPs, or millions of picture elements) a camera's image sensor has, the better its photos will be. Image quality has a lot of other factors, so your best bet is to compare cameras by how good their output looks.

That said, pictures you take at higher MP settings let you crop and enlarge them without losing much sharpness, if any. Low-MP images tend to get blocky when enlarged or cropped.

DSLRs, Compact System Cameras, Point & Shoots

Digicam Options

DSLR, compact system, and point-and-shoot cams are the three main categories of digital cameras. Read on to discover which of these digital image solutions may be the right choice for you.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Olympus PEN E-PM2 Compact System Camera



DSLR Cameras

A DSLR lets you change lenses for optimal photos in different situations, such as a telephoto for sports or a wide-angle lens for indoor gatherings.

DSLRs are known for their large image sensors that produce high picture quality. You'll get amazing color and clarity in both photos and video. In addition, DSLRs generally feature a hot shoe for a flash attachment, along with advanced automatic and manual settings.

Compact System Cams

A compact system model strives to give you the benefits of a DSLR, but in a slimmer, trimmer camera. By leaving out a DSLR's internal mirror assembly, a compact system camera can be made much less bulky.

Inside a compact system camera, there's a relatively big image sensor for great photo and video quality. Compact system cams also have detachable lenses and advanced settings for DSLR-like versatility.

Point & Shoot Cameras

A typical point-and-shoot camera is small and sleek, so it's easy to slip into a pocket or purse. It's also relatively inexpensive compared to a DSLR or compact system cam. A point-and-shoot won't let you change lenses, however, so it's at its best in social situations when your subjects aren't very far away. The image sensor in a typical point-and-shoot is quite small compared to a DSLR's or compact system's. Still, its image quality will beat virtually any camera phone's.

Shield & Secure Your Investment

Protect Your Camera

Once you've purchased a camera, you want to make sure it lasts for years to come. To do this, it should be safely stored and maintained. Here's a look at some of the accessories that can help safeguard your digital imaging device.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Keep It Clean

Cameras are dust and fingerprint magnets, so you'll need some extras to ensure that your device remains in good working condition. For instance, most lens pens feature a dry carbon compound cleaning tip and retractable brush to clean camera optics and eyepieces. There are also cleaning kits that provide multiple maintenance tools, such as lint-free wipes to remove dirt from LCD screens and solution spray formulated for LCD screens and electronic housings.

Go Far, Go Hard

To get the most out of any camera, you need a case or bag that offers the best in comfort, durability, and accessibility. Many have an impact- or water-resistant design as well as soft interior linings and pockets to keep spare batteries or memory cards on hand. Memory cards can also be stashed in their own storage solution—soft cloth wallets as well as hard plastic or aluminum cases can provide them with extra protection.

Better Safe Than Broken

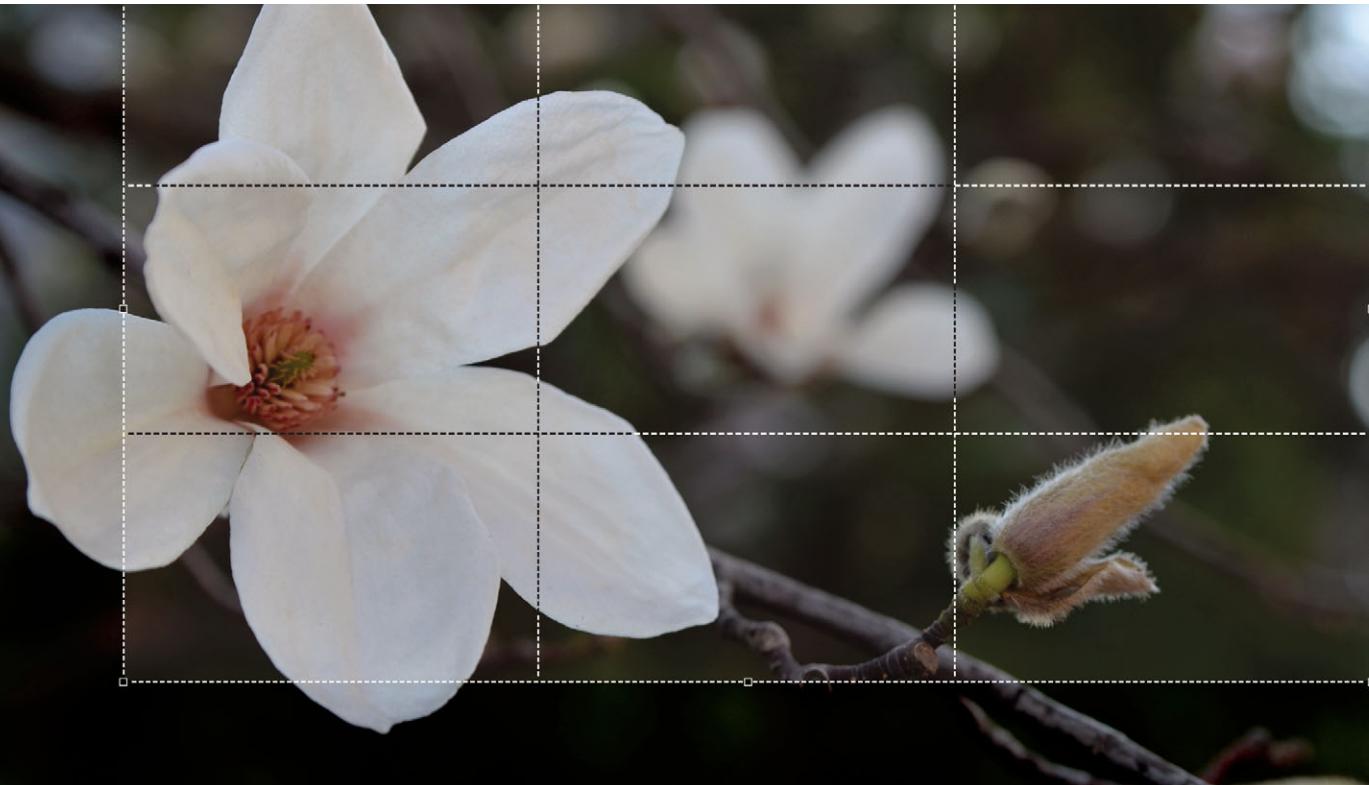
Protective accessories go far beyond a carrying case. For example, some point-and-shoot cameras can be transformed into underwater cameras when they're housed in model-specific waterproof cases. Alternatively, if you're someone who spends lots of time in the great outdoors, you can outfit your device with a shock-absorbent, foam-insulated case. Finally, screen protectors can be added to any camera's LCD screen to prevent scratches and screen glare.

Get The Editing Tools You Need In One Package

Media Software

Whether you want to spruce up special moments, create art, or tell stories, photo- and video-editing software gives you the tools to transform your photos and video into a variety of creative projects. Some titles even help you organize the images you capture.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Edit For Perfection

Basic photo-editing programs can correct color, reduce red-eye, and resize images, while more advanced titles include tools to fine tune almost any aspect of an image. Video-editing software lets you cut and rearrange video clips, add transitions and titles, and output your project as a format suitable for disc, Web, or email. High-end capabilities can include video filters and multi-track audio mixing. If you want to edit both types of media, look for a title that can enhance photos and video.

Organize Your Media

Your digital library can grow exponentially when you add images from important events, such as a family reunion. To simplify the process of uploading hundreds of images to your computer, many editing programs will let you preview shots so you can tag and name them quickly. This helps you easily find the images you're looking for in the future. Many media organization programs can also sort files by date and create dedicated folders and albums.

Create Something New

Calendars, slideshows, greeting cards, albums, and brochures. The project options for your captured memories are practically limitless with media editing software. Digital projects can be shared online, and many media suites offer built-in features to upload files to social networking and media Web sites such as Facebook, YouTube, or Picasa. Finally, your results can often be exported as files that can be viewed and shared on mobile devices, such as tablets and smartphones.

Optical vs. Digital Zoom

Take A Closer Look

When shopping for a point-and-shoot camera, you'll notice that most models feature both an optical zoom and digital zoom. It's important to understand the difference between these two types of zoom and how they affect image quality.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Optical Zoom

- This type of zoom only uses the camera's lens (optics) to magnify your view
- The camera lens physically moves in order to magnify the subject so that it appears closer
- When a camera uses optical zoom, it will snap an image utilizing its maximum amount of pixels and visual detail
- You may notice that optical zoom delivers sharper and smoother results than digital zoom
- The higher the optical zoom number (such as 5X or 10X), the better

Digital Zoom

- This feature begins after you've zoomed in as far as you can with a camera's optical zoom
- Digital zoom may appear to zoom in more, but it's only enlarging the center of your image
- As the camera digitally magnifies your image, it inserts pixels to smooth out jagged edges
- Image results may appear softer, and individual pixels are likely to be noticeable when you enlarge your picture
- Digital zoom can degrade image quality, so it's better to base a purchase decision on optical zoom

Depend On Different Tools For Photos & Video **Camcorders & Cams**

Like any tech product, cameras and camcorders are made to do specific jobs well: Camcorders shoot video; cameras capture still image shots. Expecting a camcorder to snap top-quality stills or a camera to shoot satisfactory video is likely to result in disappointment.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Sony Full HD 3D Handycam Camcorder
(HDR-TD20V)



Sony Cyber-shot RX1

Don't Limit Yourself With A Device

Sure, your still camera can shoot video, and within limits it does a passable job—but those limits can be tough to live with: Still cameras generally lose the ability to auto-focus or zoom when shooting video, the length of video may be short, and the video may not be as detailed as desired. Camcorders, meanwhile, can capture still images, but that's not what they were designed to do. As a result, most camcorder stills are low-resolution, grainy images that aren't particularly sharp. These devices may be good enough to use when you have no other option to capture photos or video, but it's often impossible to print or enlarge the media without digital artifacts (such as spots or speckles) appearing.

Get The Ideal Solution

In the end, it's all about using the right tool for the job. Even in low light, most cameras can capture sharp, well-exposed images that can easily be enlarged and printed. Convenient, flexible, and available to fit most budgets, a DSLR or point-and-shoot camera will produce better stills than a camcorder almost every time. If quality video footage is your goal, you'll find that a digital camcorder can produce sharper, brighter video than just about any still camera. Many camcorders offer automatic stabilization features, displays that flip and rotate for convenient viewing, autofocus, smooth optical zooms, and the ability to record 1080p HD video. And with most models including outputs such as HDMI and Component, you'll be able to watch high-quality video on your TV or computer.

Camera Features

You Should Know

Your next digital camera could be much more fulfilling with just a few key features. Don't worry; we're here to help. Here's a camera shopping primer.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Dual Image Stabilization

How often do you carry around a tripod? Truth is, we shoot the vast majority of our photos with a handheld camera. To ensure you take crisp looking images, a camera with dual-image stabilization will optically and digitally steady your shots to prevent blur caused by camera shake.

Face Detection Technology

Say cheese. . . People's faces are the most important elements in our photos. As such, cameras with face detection technology use the faces of friends and loved ones as reference points when it automatically sets its focus and exposure settings. This ensures that everyone looks their best.

Panorama Mode

Scenic vistas, such as the Grand Canyon, simply can't be captured with a single camera shot, especially on a point and shoot model. This is why some models offer a panorama mode. This technology will "stitch" together the separate images you take into a single, big, panoramic photo.

Touchscreen Display

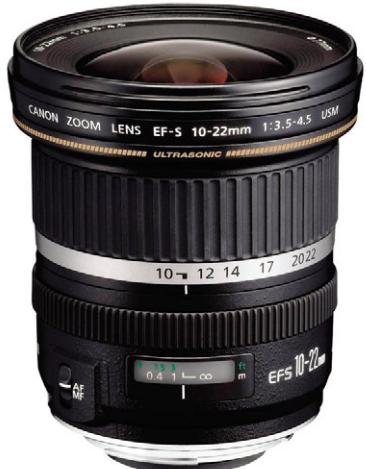
It's much easier to capture those fleeting moments when you don't have to stop and navigate your camera's menu settings. Cameras that have touchscreen displays deliver intuitive control with icons and gestures such as pinching your fingers together to zoom.

DSLR Camera Lenses

Get A New View

A DSLR camera gives you more control over your photos, and one of the keys to that control is a DSLR's ability to use different lenses. Some lenses magnify distant objects, while others let you fit more of a scene into a photo.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Canon EF-S 10-22mm f/3.5-4.5 USM
Ultra-Wide Zoom Lens



Canon EF 40mm f/2.8 STM
Standard & Medium Telephoto Lens

Standard Lens

Most DSLR kits include a standard lens, which is built to frame a wide range of subjects with wide-angle and telephoto capabilities. You can step up to a standard lens that's smaller and lighter than comparable lenses, so you can capture many images without getting tired. This also makes it easier to take shots in more confined spaces.

Macro Lens

These lenses are used primarily for close-up photography to magnify small objects that would otherwise appear blurry. Because this lens can sharply focus on tiny subject details, it offers a unique perspective. A macro lens is ideal for close-ups of flowers, dew drops, and details of items you're selling online.

Wide-Angle Lens

Any lens that has a 16 to 35mm focal length is considered a wide-angle lens. With this type of lens, you can capture more expansive views compared to a standard lens. Close-up objects appear larger than life, and faraway subjects always remain in focus. In close quarters, a wide-angle lens helps to include more people in a group photo.

Pancake Lens

Unlike all other types of DSLR lenses, a pancake lens is flat, thin, and lightweight. It offers a slightly wide angle for shooting but is a fixed focal length, which means it can't zoom. This essentially makes a DSLR function like a point-and-shoot camera, which can be handy when you don't want to mess with complex lens settings.

Wireless DI Technologies Bring New Possibilities Back Up, Edit & Share

Take your camera or camcorder online, and prepare to be blown away by its new possibilities. Wi-Fi features can streamline the way you transfer and share your images and videos, and also give you new home monitoring options.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Sony NEX-5R
Compact System Camera



Share & Back Up Your Media

Select cameras come with built-in Wi-Fi, but you can add wireless support to other models with special SD memory cards. Wi-Fi may enable your camera to work with compatible devices either directly or over your Wi-Fi network. Depending on the capabilities of your SD card or camera, Wi-Fi may let you:

- Automatically back up content to your PC or mobile device
- Wirelessly upload your photos and clips to your favorite media sharing Web site, such as Facebook or YouTube
- Automatically email new images to loved ones

Remotely Monitor & Control Your Cam

Wi-Fi can also give you wireless mastery over certain cameras.

- Stream live video to your smartphone, tablet, or computer
- Use your phone as your camera's viewfinder; remotely trigger the shutter button during group portraits
- Control your camcorder using your phone; start recording, zoom in or out, and then stop recording when you're done
- Set your camera to detect motion, snap an image of whoever or whatever is moving, and then email you a photo

Use It To Your Advantage

Lens Focal Length

The importance of focal length is often overlooked when browsing camera options, and it's a feature that impacts the type and quality of photos you can take. Here, we'll explain what focal length is and how it comes into play when you're shooting pictures.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Focal Length Defined

Focal length describes how far behind a camera's lens its image will be in focus, and thus its angle of view and level of magnification. For example, a lens with a focal length of 28mm or lower is considered a wide-angle lens, while a focal length of 75mm or higher is considered a telephoto lens. A 50mm lens, meanwhile, has a perspective that is close to what you see with your human eyes, so it's often called a "normal" lens today. (Be aware that digital camera lens focal lengths are expressed as "35mm equivalent" specs because many photographers are more familiar with the lens requirements of old 35mm film cameras. The actual lens figures of digital cameras differ because their image sensors are different sizes than a 35mm film frame.)

Determine Your Focal Length Needs

By understanding focal length, you'll be able to choose a camera or lens with the best features for your preferred shooting situation. For example, if you want a point-and-shoot camera and expect to snap photos from a long distance, opt for a camera with a 5X or higher optical zoom for a focal length of 175mm (35mm x 5). If you have a DSLR or compact system camera, you can use additional lenses to capture shots with different perspectives. For instance, sweeping shots such as landscapes can be achieved with a wide-angle lens (28mm or lower focal length), whereas a telephoto lens (75mm or higher focal length) can capture faraway subjects, such as athletes at a sporting event or animals in their natural settings.

Stabilize Your Camera To Get The Best Shot

Try Out A Tripod

Mount your camera or camcorder on a tripod, and your photos and video can have crisper focus and less motion blur. If you'd rather not tote around a standard model, consider a more portable miniature tripod or a single-leg monopod.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Rely On A Standard

A standard tripod is a model with three aluminum or carbon fiber legs. It stands tall enough to let you peer through your camera's viewfinder at eye level. Look for a tripod with legs that are strong, lightweight, and simple to extend and retract. Also, make sure that the tripod's head is easy to adjust, so you can level your cam as needed. Some tripod heads even come with fluid-filled mechanisms to make your camcorder pans and tilts much smoother.

A Mini In Your Cam Bag

A mini tripod is a short model that's less than a foot tall. It's suitable for use on a tabletop or desk indoors, or a picnic table or park bench for outdoor shots. Close a mini tripod's legs, and it becomes compact enough to carry with you just about anywhere. Some models have flexible legs instead of rigid ones, so you can wrap them around objects such as fence posts, handrails, or even tree branches for a steady shot where there are no level surfaces.

Walk With A Monopod

As its name implies, a monopod is basically a tripod with only one leg. There are aluminum and carbon fiber models. Obviously, with one leg, a monopod can't remove all motion from your shot, but it will help quite a bit. And its portability—some photographers use theirs as walking sticks—makes you more likely to bring it along than a full tripod. Monopods are popular for nature photography, as many are tall enough to hold your camera above ground vegetation.

Get The Capacity & Speed You Need Memory Card Specs

When you shop for a memory card, you should pay attention to two things: capacity and speed. Depending on your needs, one may be more important than the other. Here we'll help you determine the size and speed of a memory card that's right for you.

DIGITAL IMAGING

Sony 16GB SDHC
Class 10 Memory Card



Capacity

- A person who takes hundreds of shots at one time, such as a family shutterbug or a photo enthusiast, is more apt to need a large capacity memory card (4GB or more) than someone who only takes a few photos.
- Videos require more memory card capacity than images, but how much footage you can record varies widely due to a card's capacity and the quality level of your video (standard definition, 720p, or 1080p).
- If your camera shoots HD video, an 8GB or 16GB card will be enough for a half hour of footage. If you choose a lower capacity, you may need to swap in fresh cards more often.

Speed

- A memory card's maximum transfer rate typically determines how quickly your camera will be able to take another photo. A card with a faster speed is ideal for action shots because you won't wait as long between shots.
- In terms of video, the sustained transfer rate of a memory card is more important than the maximum speed rating because the card must constantly write video data to the card.
- SD cards have a sustained speed rating, such as Class 2, Class 4, and Class 6. The number in the rating indicates the MBps the card is guaranteed to transfer at. A higher number is better, and an HD camera requires at least Class 4.

DIGITAL IMAGING ACCESSORY



Get The Right Capacity, Speed & Class

Memory Cards

Not all memory cards are created equal. Their differences in capacity and class (write speed) both have a bearing on what they can do and, therefore, which one you'll want for your camera. To get the right card for your image or video recording needs, speak with a sales associate at your local CE retailer.

Perfect For: Capturing special moments that a slower or smaller memory card might cause you to miss.

DIGITAL IMAGING ACCESSORY



Shoot Images That Are Crisp & Level Every Time

Tripods

Can any of us really say that we can hold a camera as steadily as we'd like to? Probably not. A tripod solves this issue, as it's sturdy enough to hold the weight of your camera or camcorder and comes equipped with a three-way pan/tilt head that lets you fluidly follow subjects.

Perfect For: Keeping everything within frame level when you shoot portraits, horizons, and more. A tripod also prevents image blur when shooting in dimly-lit settings.

DIGITAL IMAGING ACCESSORY



Protect Your Digital Imaging Investment

Camera & Camcorder Cases

To protect your camera or camcorder, you need a case that offers the best in screen protection, comfort, durability, and accessibility. Cases range in style and size to fit your lifestyle. Features can include impact- and water-resistance, soft interior linings, and pockets to keep a spare battery or memory card on hand.

Perfect For: Those who want to make their digital imaging device last for years to come and organize accessories.

DIGITAL IMAGING ACCESSORY



Continue To Capture Cherished Memories

Extra Batteries

You won't miss special moments such as your son's baseball game or baby's first steps if you keep a spare battery on hand. While it's convenient to be able to recharge a battery, that isn't the case when you're short on time. It's a good idea to have a fully charged backup so you don't miss any action.

Perfect For: Shooting photos or video at special events with limited interruption.

Digital Imaging Q&A

Cover The Basics

It's exciting to discover the new capabilities appearing in digital cameras and camcorders, although the related terminology can be a little confusing at first. Here's the scoop on some features you can use to capture and share memories better than before.

DIGITAL IMAGING



Sony NEX-5R
Compact System Camera



PNY 128GB Pro-Elite X Series
Class 10 SDXC Card



Sony NEX-F3 Compact System Camera
with 18-55mm Lens

What are the benefits of a camcorder with Wi-Fi capabilities?

Recorded memories are easier to share with a Wi-Fi camcorder. After you're done shooting, most models can directly send video and photos to social networking Web sites when they're near a hotspot. There are also Wi-Fi camcorders that can use a wireless network to display images on a network-connected HDTV.

What memory card class do I need to record 1080p Full HD video?

Today's digital imaging devices require memory cards that are faster and larger than their predecessors. With that in mind, you should purchase a memory card with as much capacity as possible. You also need a card that can save data at a minimum of 6MBps (Class 6). This will ensure your images are captured error-free.

What is the difference between a compact system camera and a DSLR?

Compact systems share many of the traits of a DSLR, such as the abilities to capture high-quality images and swap lenses. However, where they differ is in size and internal components. A compact system camera lacks a pivoting mirror mechanism, so its body is typically smaller than a DSLR.

Are there compact camera models that pack big zoom capabilities?

Yes. There are compact cameras that have anywhere from a 35X to 50X optical zoom, so you can get up close to subjects even when you're far away. To produce images that are crisp and detailed, even when you zoom in all the way, these cameras typically have an optical image stabilizer that will offset camera shake.

What's the best thing I can do to take better-looking images?

Make sure you keep your camera's lens clean, and don't let anything scratch it. The lens has special coatings to reduce glare and other optical problems, so it's important to use only lens cleaning products that are safe for coated lenses.

Glossary

Digital Imaging

There's a lot of lingo to wade through as you shop for a new camera or camcorder. To help you find a device that best suits your photo or video needs, here are the definitions of terms you're likely to run into.

DIGITAL IMAGING

A

aperture

An iris-like diaphragm opening that can expand and contract the lens to let you control the amount of light that passes through it, thus affecting the exposure. The term "f-stop" can be used interchangeably with aperture.

B

burst mode

A camera mode that lets you capture several shots consecutively by pressing the shutter button only once. This is ideal for shooting fast-moving subjects, such as athletes at a sporting event.

C

CCD

A charge-coupled device is a type of image sensor. It converts light into energy that can be stored as digital data on your camera's internal memory or memory card.

D

depth of field

The area that is in focus in front of and beyond the subject in a photograph.

digital zoom

Magnifies an image digitally by cropping it and filling in the rest with interpolated pixels, thus degrading the quality. Even if the numbers are impressive, never choose a camera based on digital zoom.

F

f-stop

See aperture. Smaller f-stop numbers mean a wider lens opening; larger f-stop numbers mean a narrower lens opening.

I

ISO

For digital cameras, the ISO setting measures the sensitivity to light (similar to how it does with film). Digital camera ISO settings, such as 200, 400, and up, should capture photos as if you were using film with such a speed. Lower ISO settings mean you need more light and vice versa.

M

megapixel

Approximately 1 million pixels. The higher the megapixel count, the higher the resolution and the more you can crop, which means you can create larger prints with better quality.

N

noise

The small statistical variations among pixels that lead to (usually) minor distortions of color in a photo.

O

optical zoom

The camera's mechanical ability to move the lens physically closer to your subject. With optical zoom, the higher the number (such as 5X or 10X), the better. When choosing a camera, always consider the optical zoom, not the digital zoom. Digital zoom artificially adds pixels.

R

resolution

The number of pixels in an image. The higher the resolution, the more detail and quality in a photo. Resolution is measured in a proportion (such as 2,272 x 1,704).

W

white balance

Light levels are adjusted electronically to ensure whites in a certain environment are pure, leading to more lifelike colors.

An Intel® Atom™ Processor Gives You A



Full Windows® 8 Tablet

The wait is over. And it was worth it. Finally, you can buy a tablet powered by the new Intel Atom processor (www.intel.com). Atom gives you the power to run a *full* version of Windows 8, along with the efficiency necessary to enjoy great battery life.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



| | Windows® 8 | Windows® RT |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Compatible with apps from the Windows Store | ✓ | ✓ |
| Compatible with cameras, printers, and other devices | ✓ | Limited |
| Compatible with Windows 7 applications and programs outside of the Windows Store | ✓ | |



An All-New Intel Atom Processor

Intel designed its new Atom processor to deliver the perfect combination of performance and efficiency.

The latest generation Intel Atom processor was redesigned for today's software such as full Windows 8, and to be backward-compatible with programs and peripherals such as printers running on older Windows operating systems.

At the same time, the new Atom fits perfectly into the thin form factor of a touchscreen tablet. Its power-efficient design means that you'll get the battery life you need as you use your tablet on the go. Look for the Intel Atom logo on new Windows 8 tablets.

A Full Version Of Windows 8

You may not have heard that there are *two* editions of Windows available in tablets, not just one. And it's important to know what you're getting before you buy.

Windows RT is a 'lite' version of Windows 8 that's meant to run on ARM processors such as those found in smartphones and previous generation tablets. It resembles Windows 8, but Windows RT limits the things a tablet can do.

The new Atom processor, on the other hand, has the performance to run the more capable x86-based Windows 8. This means that tablets with the Intel Atom are not relegated to only running apps from the Windows Store.

Get The Best Of Windows® 8 With **Ultrabooks™**



A sleek, high-performance Ultrabook can give you the best Windows® 8 experience. With a powerful Intel® Core™ processor (www.intel.com), everything just works.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



| Ultrabook Model | SKU | Processor | Touch |
|---------------------------|---------|---------------|-------|
| Samsung Series 5 | 6774611 | Intel Core i5 | Yes |
| Asus QX31 | 6906246 | Intel Core i5 | Yes |
| Acer M5 | 6815209 | Intel Core i5 | Yes |
| Acer M5 | 6815281 | Intel Core i5 | No |
| Lenovo Yoga | 6634279 | Intel Core i5 | Yes |
| Dell XPS14-8182SLV | 6849135 | Intel Core i5 | No |
| Dell I14Z-1002SLV | 6849144 | Intel Core i3 | No |
| Dell I15Z-4400SLV | 6932702 | Intel Core i5 | No |
| HP Envy 4 | 6780706 | Intel Core i5 | Yes |
| Toshiba U845 | 6672474 | Intel Core i5 | No |

Find Ultra power at www.bestbuy.com/ultrabooks

Smart Power & Beauty

Ultrabooks let you start the new year in a stylish way. Select models come with advanced touchscreens to put Windows 8's new interface at your fingertips.

Setting a new standard for speed, Ultrabooks effortlessly run all your software, apps, and devices. Many models also break new ground in responsiveness, such as when you tap a key to wake up your laptop or double-click an icon to launch an application.

What's more, Ultrabooks are slim, portable, and easy to carry around at work or school. They also offer long battery life, so you can keep working when AC power is scarce.

No More "Record Player" Optical Drive

A crucial hallmark of the Ultrabook category is freedom from the legacy technologies of the past. Specifically, most Ultrabooks ditch the bulky, decades-old CD drive sometimes jokingly referred to as a "record player" or "cupholder." With no flimsy CD tray to break, and no more scratch-prone discs to worry about, you'll be able to fully enjoy the convenience of digital downloads when you install new applications. You'll also be ready to back up your files using online cloud storage services, which can be much faster and less expensive than CD-Rs or DVD-Rs. (Of course, you can easily connect a USB optical drive to your Ultrabook should the need ever arise.)

Goodbye To Fragile Hard Disk Drives

An old-fashioned hard drive can be damaged during the daily shuffle. That's why many Ultrabooks come outfitted with a tough, reliable solid-state drive. SSDs have no moving parts, so they're more robust than hard drives and hybrid drives. An SSD can also accelerate an Ultrabook's startup time, so you'll no longer have to wait several minutes to start using your computer. Applications can launch much faster from an SSD, too. There's enough storage capacity on most Ultrabook SSDs to easily hold all of your apps and personal files, but you can always plug in an external hard drive for additional room for music, photos, presentations, and more.

Enjoy The Big Game Like Never Before



Intel® WiDi

Wirelessly stream the things you love—including the big game and social chat—from your Ultrabook™ or laptop to your HDTV. Intel® (www.intel.com) Wireless Display technology, also known as WiDi (www.bestbuy.com/widi), makes it easy.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



LOOK FOR THE LOGO
ON COMPATIBLE DEVICES



Laptop with WiDi



WiDi Adapter



HDTV

WiDi is easy to set up, and it requires only a few components: an Ultrabook or laptop with Intel WiDi technology, a WiDi adapter to receive the wireless signal and route it to your TV set, and an HDTV with an HDMI port (connect it to the WiDi adapter with an HDMI cable, sold separately).

Throw A Virtual Big Game Party

Lots of us use our Ultrabooks as a “second screen”—that is, we tweet and chat on our laptops as we watch TV. But with WiDi, you can put both the big game *and* a chat box on the big screen for everyone to enjoy. Simply use your Ultrabook to stream the game in one window, resize a chat window to fit underneath it or next to it, and use WiDi to wirelessly send it to your HDTV. It’s like having distant friends join the party.

Notebooks & Ultrabooks™ With WiDi

| OEM | Platform | Model | CPU | Touch |
|---------|-----------|------------------|----------------|-------|
| Asus | Notebook | Q400 | Core i7 3630QM | |
| Asus | Notebook | Q500 | Core i5 3210M | |
| Asus | Notebook | Q500 | Core i7 3630QM | Yes |
| Asus | Ultrabook | UX31 | Core i5 3317U | Yes |
| Lenovo | Notebook | P500 | Core i5 3210M | |
| Lenovo | Notebook | P500 | Core i7 3630QM | |
| Samsung | Notebook | Series 5 | Core i5 3210M | |
| Samsung | Notebook | Series 5 | Core i5 3210M | |
| Samsung | Notebook | Series 7 15-inch | Core i7 3630QM | |
| Samsung | Notebook | Series 7 17-inch | Core i7 3630QM | |
| Samsung | Ultrabook | Series 5 | Core i5 3317U | Yes |
| Toshiba | Notebook | P845-3 | Core i5 3210M | Yes |
| Toshiba | Notebook | P855-2 | Core i5 3210M | |
| Toshiba | Notebook | P875-4 | Core i7 3630QM | |
| Toshiba | Ultrabook | U845W | Core i5 3317U | |

At Home Anywhere

Sony VAIO Tap 20

Say hello to the mobile, All-In-One touchscreen PC that's built for the entire family: the Sony VAIO Tap 20 (www.sony.com). Multiple users can get it all done, whether they're surfing the Web, drawing, playing games, or watching movies.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Sony VAIO Tap 20 Mobile Desktop | SKU: 6851237

20-Inch HD Touchscreen

- 1600 x 900 capacitive touchscreen LCD display
- IPS (in-plane switching) technology for easy viewing from any angle
- Mobile BRAVIA Engine 2 adds sharpness filters and noise reduction to enhance visuals

Built-In Battery & Stand

- By maneuvering the adjustable stand, you can lay the Tap 20 on a flat surface or prop it up at an angle
- The portability of the Tap 20 lets you pick it up and take it with you from room to room without shutting down or re-booting

ArtRage Studio Pro Tools

- This software provides creative features such as oils, watercolors, and inking pens
- Draw natural looking artwork directly on your computer display
- Edit your work using color blending and post-spray stickers

Rapid Wake Technology

- Never shut down your PC again: tap and your PC goes into sleep mode
- You can resume your computing session in just two seconds with your data safe and secure
- The VAIO Tap can stay in sleep mode for days, even when it's unplugged

Learn What You Can Do With Different Apps

Customize Your Tablet

Let's face it: The tablet has effectively ushered us into a paperless world. So, it's certainly good to know there are plenty of tablet apps to help you work, play, and do everything in between. Below are several ways to take advantage of these apps.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Stay Organized

If you're someone who lives by checklists, then a productivity app will keep you on track to complete your goals. In fact, there are apps that can organize almost every part of your life. For instance, there are apps to manage daily tasks, sync your work and personal schedules, and meet a monthly budget.

Communicate

On a tablet, you can rely on one or more apps to stay in touch with friends, family, and colleagues. Some apps let you text just like you would using a smartphone and others push email to your device so you receive timely new message notifications. And with easy access to social networks, you can post and reply to friends anytime, anywhere.

Be Creative

Are you a graphic artist, writer, painter, or musician? Even if you're not, you can use tablet apps to release your creativity. Drawing apps give you the freedom to sketch images with your finger or stylus. When you're on the go, you can use a word processing app to jot down ideas, stories, and more. The possibilities are limitless.

Enjoy Media

Because tablets are thin and Web-connected, and they have large screens, they're ideal for portable multimedia enjoyment. Some apps let you watch online videos, stream music, download games, and more. Your entertainment downloads can often be stored and backed up to the cloud without space limitations.

To Add Network Speed Look For The "N"

Upgrade Your Router

With the boom of Web media, there's almost no mobile device that doesn't have built-in Internet capabilities. But to wirelessly stream HD content to these Wi-Fi devices, you need the fast and reliable connection of a dual-band concurrent Wi-Fi N router.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Actiontec GT784WN Wireless N
DSL Modem Router



Dual-Band Concurrent Wi-Fi N Routers

- A dual-band concurrent Wi-Fi N router can simultaneously connect to 802.11n (Wi-Fi N) or 802.11a (Wi-Fi A) devices using the 5GHz band or 802.11n/g/b (Wi-Fi N, G, or B) devices using the 2.4GHz band
- A slow 2.4GHz device on the network won't reduce the speed of 5GHz connections
- Backward-compatible with slower 802.11g/b/a devices
- MIMO (Multiple Input/Multiple Output) technology uses up to three antennas to reach theoretical network speeds of up to 450Mbps on either the 5GHz or 2.4GHz band

Standard Wi-Fi N Routers

- Wi-Fi N gives you longer range and higher reliability compared to Wi-Fi G, B, or A, making it suitable for streaming even HD video smoothly
- A standard, non-concurrent Wi-Fi N router may connect to either 5GHz (802.11n/a) or 2.4GHz (802.11n/g/b) devices, but not both types at the same time
- Backward-compatible with 802.11g/b/a devices; however, the entire wireless network may slow down to the speed of the slowest device
- May use MIMO for high speeds with compatible adapters

Take Advantage Of Every Feature & Capability

All-In-One PCs

Desktop computers can take up a lot of space. Besides the system itself, you'll need room on your desk for a monitor, keyboard, and mouse. All-in-one computers, however, offer the same functionality but are designed to save space.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Sony VAIO
Tap 20 Mobile Desktop



Space Saving

An all-in-one's components are built into a thin base or a case that looks like a PC monitor. Connectivity and peripheral features, such as Wi-Fi, USB ports, and a disc drive, are also built into the body of an all-in-one. Because they're versatile, all-in-ones are ideal for a college student's dorm room, a kitchen, a workshop, or a child's room.

Touchscreen

If your all-in-one has a touchscreen, you'll be able to control it by using intuitive finger gestures. For example, with the touch-sensitive Windows 8, you'll be able to surf the Web and use applications by touching the screen. An adjustable touchscreen may also make it easier for you to read, play games, and edit photos.

Video & Audio

Many all-in-one computers have screens that are 20 inches or larger (measured diagonally), allowing you to enjoy online entertainment such as streaming video, games, or Web site content. Built-in speakers can provide quality audio for a more immersive movie or music entertainment experience.

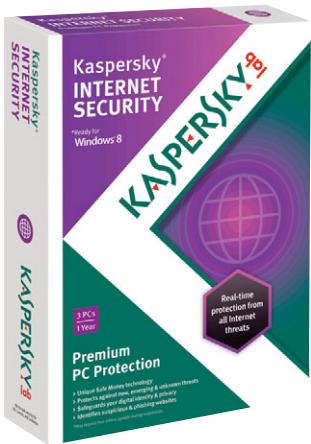
Cut Some Cables

All-in-one PCs typically include built-in Wi-Fi, so you won't need to run an Ethernet cable to the system for Internet access. Without being tied down to a wired network, you can place a compact all-in-one in a number of different locations. You'll also have fewer cables to disconnect or reconnect when you move the system.

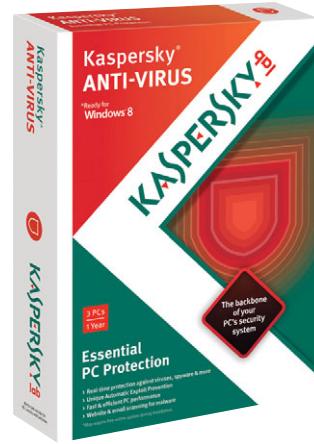
Thwart Cybercrime With Advanced PC & Web Security Software

More than ever, PC users must be proactive about protecting both their computer system and online identity. When you outfit your PC with the latest security software, you can breathe a sigh of relief, knowing that you've got your bases covered.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Kaspersky Internet Security



Kaspersky Anti-Virus

Get Timely Protection

Whenever you log on to your PC or browse the Web, you're potentially vulnerable to an unknown number of threats. So it's comforting to know that Internet security suites are designed to gather data in real-time. This means the software frequently scans for potential threats and analyzes program activity.

Bank Online Safely

Nowadays you have to know how to vigilantly manage your bank account on the Internet. Fortunately, some new security Web products integrate technologies that essentially offer a system of checks and balances that can prevent you from getting hoodwinked by a fake URL or drawn into a financial scam.

Defend Yourself In An Instant

Because security software functions as your advocate in the war against cybercrime, you can rely on capabilities such as file checkers and URL tagging, so you know whether you're interacting with a safe Web site. This puts the control in your hands and keeps you constantly aware of your system's weak spots.

Control Kids' Web Access

Although you may not be the overprotective type, as a parent you know it's important to monitor your children's online activity. And when you install the right software, you'll be able to protect the little ones by blocking certain social media communication or monitoring regular Web activity.

Know Your Specifications

All About Monitors

Most of us use monitors of varying shape and size throughout our day, but when it comes to buying your own display, there's more that informs the decision making process than aesthetic preference. Read on to learn important specification guidelines.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Acer T232HL bmidz 23-Inch
Widescreen Flat-Panel LCD
HD Monitor



Know Your Highs & Lows

- A high contrast ratio will help produce more realistic-looking video.
- A high refresh rate is best to prevent image blurring, also known as ghosting.
- Similarly, it's always better for a monitor to have a lower response time than a higher one.

Take Your Measurements

- Standard monitor sizes (measured diagonally) generally range from 13 inches to 27 inches.
- If 27 inches isn't large enough, your PC may support multiple monitors for a wider display.
- Widescreen monitors are ideal for HD content.

Get The Ports You Need

- DVI, HDMI, and VGA are the most common inputs you'll find on monitors. At least one of them will work with your PC.
- If your PC offers a DisplayPort output, you can use a compatible monitor—and possibly more than one.

Don't Forget These Specs

- Look for a viewing angle closest to 180 degrees to be able to view the display from multiple angles.
- A monitor's resolution depends on its size, so consider how movies, videos, and photos will look on different monitors as you're shopping.

Be More Productive With Untethered Printing

Today's printers have moved beyond simply printing black-and-white or color documents. Now equipped with wireless connectivity, many offer a number of "PC-free" features that cater to different home and small business needs.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Epson Expression® Premium XP-800 Small-In-One™ Printer



Connect To Your Network & Start Printing

- Introducing a Wi-Fi-compatible printer to your wireless home network allows you to print remotely from almost anywhere in your house.
- Some network-enabled printers support "computer-less printing," which means you can send documents, Web pages, and emails from a mobile device to a printer using a supported printing app.

Print, Scan, & Copy With One Device

- In addition to printing, many network-ready models can handle scanning and copying tasks. These are called AIO (all-in-one) printers.
- Some AIO printers have multi-media capabilities beyond basic functions. For example, many printers can print compatible DVDs and CDs so you can personalize your media discs with labels and graphics.

Save Space & Print Via Email

- If a standard printer, fax machine, copier, and scanner are too much for your space, a single compact all-in-one unit can provide the same capabilities with a space-saving design. And because it's not networked via wires, you can place your printer in a central location.
- Certain printers can be assigned an email address, so you can easily email your docs to the printer itself.

The Benefits Of Mobile Storage Devices

Portable Hard Drives

While keeping a portable hard drive on hand is great for file backups, there are many more reasons why this computer peripheral is beneficial. Below are additional advantages of pairing this device with computers.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Affordability

Portable hard drives are typically priced based on the storage space they offer, so you'll pay more for a larger amount of space. With a wide range of capacities to choose from (250GB to 2TB), you can buy a drive with the right amount of space to fit your needs. If you plan to store a small number of files, a lower-capacity 250GB should suffice. On the other hand, if you need to store hundreds of media files, find a drive with the most capacity you can afford.

Portability

Designed for someone who's always on the go, portable hard drives typically weigh in around 6 ounces and are no bigger than 5 inches tall. They can easily fit into a bag or briefcase, and some models are built to withstand life's mishaps with a durable design. Because a portable hard drive is built for mobility, you can use it to quickly access your documents using any computer. You can also use it to share photos and files with others.

Simple Connectivity

Most models use a USB 2.0 interface to connect to your computer's USB port, letting you instantly save and access files without installing software. The USB connection also powers the portable hard drive, so you won't need to use an electrical outlet or deal with an additional device cable.

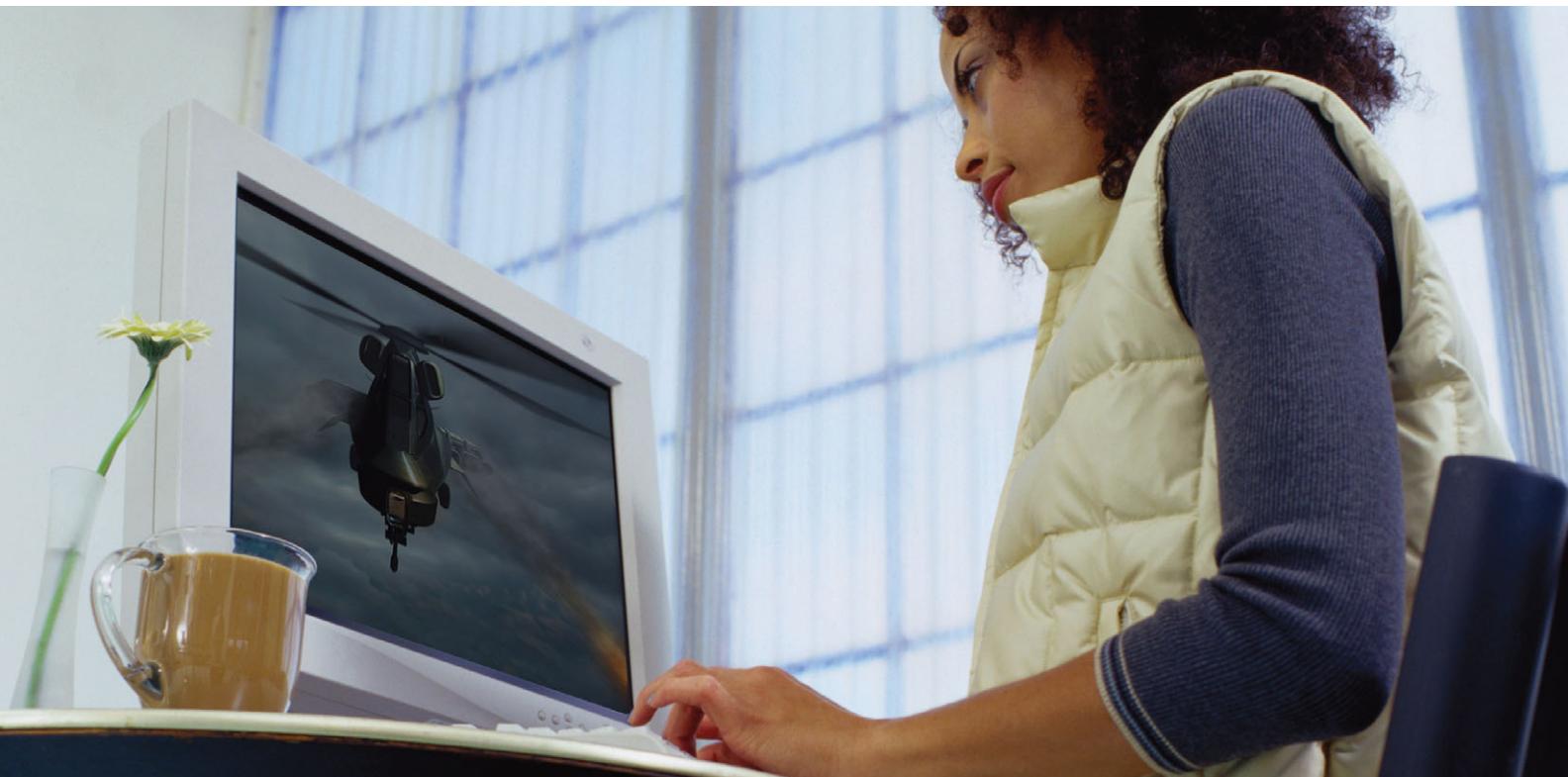
In addition to USB 2.0, you'll find portable hard drives that use a USB 3.0 connection. This new standard can transfer files much faster than USB 2.0.

Build A Setup For Optimal Enjoyment

PC Gaming

For maximum detail and visual effects, PC gaming is where it's at. Check out these system upgrades and accessories to help you max out your gaming computer.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Graphics Card

Most desktop computers and some notebooks let you install a more powerful graphics card. This is the single most effective step to smoother gameplay and higher visual detail. Be sure to check compatibility with your computer, and be aware that you may need to upgrade its power supply or other components.

Input Devices

A gaming mouse has the accuracy and precision to make a big difference in your in-game performance. So can a gaming keyboard with programmable keys and a gamer-centric layout. Many users also turn to wheel combos, flight sticks, and console controllers for a more immersive feel for various titles.

Display

Many video games are absolutely stunning in the visual department. It's worth your while to invest in a monitor that can display graphics properly. A larger screen can fill more of your peripheral vision to help you get into the game. That said, a 3D display will make you feel like you're a part of the world you're playing in.

Sound

Just as in blockbuster movies, sound effects and music can make all the difference in gaming. A good set of surround-sound powered speakers can envelop you in audio—and even save your "life" when the bad guys try to sneak up behind you. And a headset lets you play quietly or talk to fellow players.

Your Wish Is Your Devices' Command Voice Control It

It may sound futuristic, but you can control all sorts of devices with only the sound of your voice. Voice recognition is empowering for the differently abled, safer for drivers, and more convenient for people who are just plain busy.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



PC Speech-To-Text & Control

Voice recognition software lets you dictate text instead of typing it in, with accuracy that improves over time. It can also give you verbal command over your computer. What's more, your smartphone or tablet can be used as microphone with compatible software.

Hands-Free Calling

A hands-free calling device lets you use your phone in your vehicle while you keep your hands safely on the wheel. Many let you place a call simply by speaking a contact's name or number. Hands-free devices include Bluetooth car kits, Bluetooth headsets, and select car stereos.

Smart TVs With Voice Command

Some recent HDTVs come with voice (and gesture) recognition built-in, so you can tell your TV to turn on, go to a specific channel, and even launch your favorite smart app. Certain TVs allow you to use your compatible smartphone or tablet as a wireless microphone and/or remote control.

Tablet & Smartphone Control

As we've mentioned, these mobile devices quite often play a role in your voice control of other gadgets. However, you can issue commands to them, too. For instance, you can use your voice to search the Web, place a phone or video call, control music playback, and much more.

Get A Wired Connection Anywhere In Your House

Powerline Networking

A wireless network may have “dead spots” in particular areas of your home. Wi-Fi can also let you down when you’re watching online video or playing a multiplayer game. Powerline networking gives you an easy way to have a reliable connection in any room.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Computer Connections At Top Speed

Walls, structural beams, and other obstructions can interfere with a wireless signal, cutting your PC’s Wi-Fi to a fraction of its speed. Powerline, being a wired network technology (it uses your home’s electrical wires as cables), maintains much higher performance throughout your home. Powerline also gives you the freedom to use your computer in any room with an AC outlet—simply plug in an adapter.

Streaming Video Without Interruptions

“Smart” devices bring Internet video to your home theater. From your home router, Wi-Fi often isn’t consistent or fast enough for steady HD streaming, unlike a wired network connection. At the same time, you don’t want unsightly network cables lying around and tripping people. You could hire a professional to hide cables in your walls, but it’s much less expensive (and less disruptive) to install a pair of powerline adapters instead.

Online Multiplayer Gaming Without Lag

Game consoles and PCs let players pit themselves against online opponents or play cooperatively with friends. Unfortunately, Wi-Fi introduces a slight delay into Internet connections. It may not bother you when you’re surfing your favorite sites, but it can be the difference between victory and defeat. That’s why gamers need a wired network—and powerline is the most convenient kind of wired connection around.

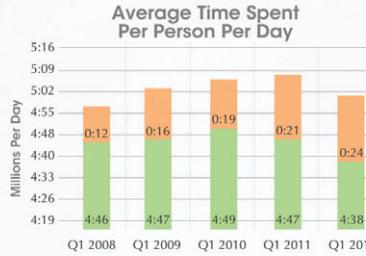
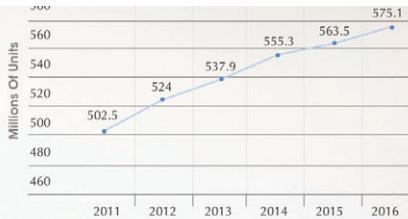
Upgrade To A Big-Screen View When You Connect A Projector

More and more, projectors are becoming a must-have addition to any corporate conference room. They're also useful for other settings, such as a classroom. By connecting your PC, tablet, or smartphone to a projector, you can easily share visuals with others.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

With the arrival of Windows 8 and enterprise market demands, the number of hard drive shipments is expected to nail a record at the end of this year. With a 4.3% increase over last year, the projected 524 million units will represent the most hard drives ever shipped. That record won't stand for long, as shipments are estimated to climb until 2016.

Source: IHS iSuppli Storage Space Market Brief



Live TV Is Still Popular

In this day and age of DVRs, on-demand content, and Web streaming, traditional TV viewing would appear to be on its way out. However, that doesn't appear to be the case. In Q1 viewers spent 4.38 hours per day watching live TV, which was only six minutes less than the time they spent in Q1 2008.

Source: Nielsen Cross-Platform Report



Get Your Message Across With A Projector

Business projectors connect to your PC so you can easily share its on-screen content with others. For instance, business colleagues or students can view Web sites or slide shows on a screen that's much larger than what an HDTV can display. Images appear bright with a high contrast ratio, and some models can project content in HD. For more flexibility, there are projectors that can also connect to portable devices, such as smartphones or tablets.

Mount A Projector For Additional Benefits

Virtually any projector can be ceiling mounted with the right hardware. Not only will this free up space and prevent projected images from being blocked, it will also reduce the amount of time you need to set up the projector and your media for meetings and presentations. A mount permanently places a projector in one spot, so it will ensure that your device remains secure and provides an optimal image size and viewing angle.

Watch Everything On A Larger-Than-Life Screen

It's convenient to project images onto a white wall, but you won't be able to watch your media at its best. Projector screens feature a special optical coating to ensure optimal image quality. This means colors will appear more true-to-life and objects will look sharp. Screen configurations include fixed-frame, manual pull-down, and electric to fit your needs. Some models retract into a ceiling or wall, but others have a tripod base meant for portable use.

Share Files Using Network-Attached Storage

Connect Your Home

NAS (network-attached storage) devices address two problems with typical home network file storage: Storage on PCs is limited, and any available storage is not always easy to share with everyone on the network. Keep reading to learn more.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Back Up Automatically

One excellent reason for considering an NAS device is the fact that many include multiple drives in a RAID configuration that can provide automatic backups and redundancy. Consider a RAID-enabled device, because automatic backup is not merely convenient, it's especially important when storing this much data. A NAS with the appropriate capacity and correctly configured backup software can automatically back up your entire network overnight, every night.

Expand Your Capacity

While the average desktop PC these days includes a fair amount of hard drive space, it may not be enough for a busy household that stores and shares family photos, music, and video. NAS devices range in size from 500GB to several terabytes, and a 4TB NAS is not uncommon on a home network—that's enough storage to accommodate more than 1 million MP3s or several hundred full-length movies. Even larger capacities, such as 12TB, might be available, as well.

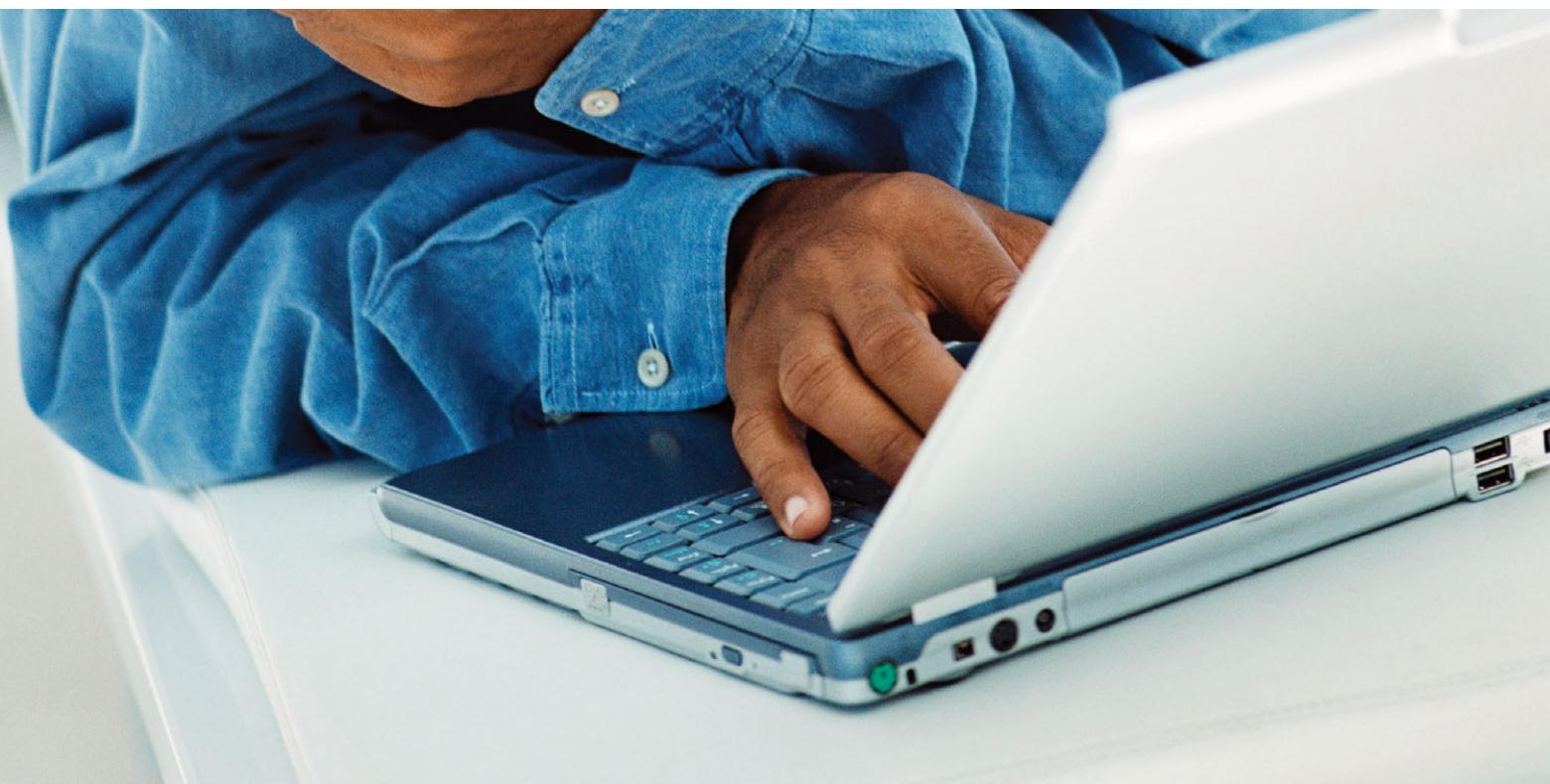
Stream Big Files

Consider a NAS that allows you to add drives or connect additional NAS devices to it to easily increase capacity if your needs change. Many provide additional USB ports and may allow you to attach (and thus share) a USB printer, scanner, or other peripheral. Certain files stored on a NAS can be streamed to other network-aware devices, such as portable devices, BD players, game consoles, and more. For example, you could stream video stored on the NAS to a compatible, connected BD player.

Maximize Your Computing Capabilities With Laptop Extras

You probably already know that a notebook computer is great for on-the-go Web access, social networking, work, and play. But with an accessory or two, you can use your laptop in surprising new ways. Read on to discover some possibilities.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Web Phone Calls

Skype and other online services let you keep in touch with friends and family through Internet video phone calls. If your laptop doesn't have a built-in Web cam and microphone, you can easily add these capabilities. Buy a USB Web cam and/or a set of headphones with an integrated microphone, and you're all set.

Expanded Wi-Fi

With a mobile hotspot, you can access the Internet practically anywhere you receive a cell phone signal. In other words, your laptop's Web access will no longer be limited to areas with Wi-Fi coverage. Imagine the possibilities with your laptop while you're traveling, camping out, or picnicking in a park.

Big-Screen Media

More and more laptops now come with ways to send video to an HDTV. With the right connection—such as an HDMI cable or a wireless adapter, if your laptop supports it—you can enjoy a variety of media on a big screen. Web videos, home movies, and HD movies. If you can access it on your laptop, the possibilities are many.

As A Desktop

Many of us love the portability and power of a laptop, but we'd really rather have a more ergonomic keyboard and a larger screen. When you're not out and about, plug a mouse, LCD monitor, and the keyboard of your choice into your laptop. A docking station will make these connections even simpler.

Give Your Desktop PC A Boost With New Components

If you've noticed that your desktop has slowed in performance, it may be time to upgrade some of its components. Replacing an old graphics card, installing a new PSU, or adding more memory are a few things you can do to maximize your PC's capabilities.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



XFX Ultra Overclock Edition Radeon HD 7770 1GB PCIe 3.0 Graphics Card



Thermaltake Smart M850W Power Supply

Graphics Card

These days most PC systems have integrated graphics that process the visuals you see on your monitor. But when you upgrade to a dedicated graphics card, your gameplay is taken to an entirely different level. For example, you can increase detail in digital environments, while in-game motion will be more fluid (accelerated frame rates).

Power Supply

A PC's power supply delivers continuous power to the rest of the system's components. Although 500 watts of power may be enough thrust for a standard PC, you should increase the wattage if you install additional or upgraded components, such as a graphics card. A new PSU is also likely to make your system more energy efficient.

Memory

Able to juggle powerful applications and demanding games, RAM stores the data for currently running programs. While you can get by with up to 4GB of RAM, 6 or 8GB is best if you simultaneously run programs on your system. Video editors and serious gamers need to add a few extra gigs of RAM to fit their needs.

Solid-State Drive

Now that new PCs often come equipped with SSDs, mechanical hard drives are going the way of the floppy disk drive. You'll notice a considerable boost in speed once you've upgraded to flash-based storage. An SSD with 128GB of space should be adequate for most people, but it's best to purchase the largest SSD you can afford.

Get Familiar With Different Types Of Scanners

Although you might assume scanners are only good for one thing, they actually have a number of features that make them useful for various tasks. Read on to learn about new and standard scanner capabilities, including image capture, photo enhancements, and more.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Pick A Type

Among the different styles of scanners available today, there are two main types: flatbed and sheetfed scanners. The former are akin to copy machines, where you open a lid and lay a document flat on the device's glass to scan it. Alternatively, sheetfed scanners work a lot like printers, where you place a document to be scanned in a tray, and the machine pulls it through while scanning. Keep in mind that both types can handle a variety of different paper types and sizes.

Take It With You

For on-the-go use, some sheetfed scanners are compact and can easily fit inside a briefcase. Handheld models are no bigger than a three-hole punch, and they can scan a document to create a high-resolution image with a single pass. Some models have built-in memory card slots, so you can scan and save images without using a computer. If you need to quickly scan receipts, paperwork, or business cards, a portable scanner is a great solution.

Enhance & Add Effects

If you want to dig up family photos for a restoration project, a flatbed scanner offers a convenient way to scan and digitally enhance old photos. Specifically, some scanner models offer photo correction for issues such as faded colors. And, if you're working with old slides and negatives, there are models that can scan them using a built-in transparency unit. That way, you can touch up and enlarge the photo memories you've saved for decades.

The Ins & Outs Of eReader Tech & More

Books can be entertaining in any form, but an eReader includes built-in technology that paperbacks don't offer. And if you already own an eReader, you can add accessories that make reading easier on the eyes and more ergonomically comfortable.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Consider Ways To Enjoy Digital Content

What you'll find common among many eReaders are several convenient features, such as E Ink displays, wireless connectivity, and onboard storage up to 16GB. An eReader is actually an ideal addition to a student's scholastic toolkit, because it's so easy to download ebooks, read in low-light settings, and take advantage of long battery life in extended reading sessions. Plus, most models weigh less than one pound, so they're travel-friendly.

Don't Forget To Add A Case & Screen Protector

Like any tech gadget, eReaders need a layer of protection against accidental drops, scratches, and smudges. Consider covering your eReader with a reliable leather or plastic case. There are plenty of designs and colors that will match your style preference. In addition, a screen protector will not only guard a touchscreen against scratches, but may also reduce glare and act as a privacy screen to prevent prying eyes from reading any confidential info.

Use A Stand, Charger Or Reading Light

eReaders aren't heavy devices, but sometimes it's just easier to prop one up on a stand, especially if you're reading at a desk. What's nice is that you can charge some eReaders on certain stand models, too. (Avid readers may also want to store a car charger in their vehicle.) And when you're reading late at night on your bed, you can assist your eyes with a reading light, unless your eReader features adjustable lighting technology.

Acer recommends Windows 8

Aspire M5 Ultrabook™

acer

A Touch Ultrabook™

You want a tablet's touchscreen and ease of use, but also the power, portability, and style of an Ultrabook. The Touch version of the slim, new Aspire M5 from Acer (acer.com)—an exclusive to Best Buy—puts it all at your fingertips.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Acer Aspire M5 Touch Ultrabook | SKU: 6815209

Beautiful, fast, fluid

Windows 8

Get the Acer Aspire M5 Touch Ultrabook exclusively at Best Buy.

The Touch Experience

This Aspire M5's 14-inch, frameless, CineCrystal LED-backlit touchscreen simply invites you to interact with it. Its advanced, 10-point multitouch support lets you use intuitive gestures to breeze through your apps, media, and Web pages. The M5's touchpad and Windows 8 operating system likewise support multi-gesture control. At the same time, the M5 gives you a true, backlit keyboard for touch-typing ease, even when light conditions are less than optimal.

Responsive Performance

There's no long wait when you need to use your Aspire M5. Thanks to advanced SSD acceleration, its Acer Green Instant On feature can wake up the M5 from sleep mode in less than 2 seconds. As for Web access, Acer Always Connect can put you online in 2.5 seconds. Finally, Intel Turbo Boost kicks into gear with more processing speed when you need it most. All this from an Ultrabook that's only 0.91-inch thin and 4.6 pounds.

Explore Beyond Limits

- Intel® Core™ i5 processor (1.7GHz/2.6GHz Turbo Boost)
- Windows 8
- 500GB storage plus AcerCloud
- 8X DVD burner; 6GB RAM
- 1.3MP HD Web cam; HDMI
- Dolby Home Theater v4 audio

FirstGlimpse

Bring Your TV & PC Together

Try A TV Tuner

Believe it or not, a simple upgrade can give your PC the soul of a TV, and it doesn't involve shoving the sofa in front of it. Read on for all the ways a TV tuner or media storage device connected to your PC can expand your entertainment horizons.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Tune In To Your Favorites From Your PC

The key to transforming your PC into a TV is a TV tuner, which comes in both external and internal models. External tuners plug into your PC's USB port, while internal TV tuners must be installed in a PCI or PCI-E slot. Both external and internal TV tuners feature video input ports that let you connect an antenna; set-top box; or other video signal, such as cable TV or satellite service. Most even support recording HD content.

Store & Watch From Your TV

A USB media storage device is another component you can use to further blur the line between your TV and PC. These devices connect directly to your PC and/or TV and act as a media repository. Using a remote control, you can browse interactive menus and navigate through media files stored on the device for playback on your TV. SD and HD home videos, recorded TV, and even your music and photo libraries are just a few button taps away.

More Media Where You Want It

TV tuners and media storage devices are all about giving you access to entertainment in new ways. For instance, at family gatherings, instead of cramming all the grandparents, aunts, and uncles into the office so they can watch little Jimmy score the winning field goal, keep everyone in the family room and just navigate to the film clip from your TV using a media storage device and its remote.

Wireless Ways To The Web Internet For Tablets

Tablets can go online wirelessly to let you stream video, use social networks, and more. Different models connect in different ways, however. Tablets use either Wi-Fi or a mobile broadband technology (such as 3G or 4G), and often both, to access the wireless Web.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

Acer Iconia Tablet
(A200-10g16u)



Wi-Fi: Hot Speed Near Hotspots

A Wi-Fi network is usually linked to an Internet connection, such as the service you pay for at home or a connection sponsored by an organization such as a coffee shop or public library. A Wi-Fi coverage area is called a hotspot. It will give your tablet relatively fast wireless Internet access—fast enough to stream HD video, in many cases. That said, a hotspot's coverage only extends for a few hundred feet.

If your tablet can use both Wi-Fi and a mobile broadband technology (3G or 4G), it's a good idea to set it to use Wi-Fi near hotspots you trust, and automatically switch to 3G or 4G when you're out of Wi-Fi range.

Mobile Broadband: Wide Coverage

Cell phone networks provide data coverage over a wide area. Recent technologies, such as 3G and 4G, are called mobile broadband. These wireless protocols let your tablet access the Internet with modest to moderate speed wherever there is coverage: in the woods, in your car, or out on a lake. In order to use mobile broadband, however, you'll need to sign up for a data plan with a carrier that supports your tablet.

3G is commonly available, and suitable for basic Web use. 4G technologies, such as LTE and WiMAX, are not as widely deployed. That said, they're much faster than 3G, and better able to stream video to your tablet.



Choose One That Matches Your Computing Needs

Mice

To better fit your computing style, mice are available in ergonomic, wireless, programmable multi-button, and mobile designs. Some models even use special tracking technologies to let you mouse on surfaces that standard mice can't, such as glass, granite, and carpet.

Perfect For: Anyone who doesn't prefer to use a trackpad or touchscreen to interact with a desktop or laptop system.



Back Up & Store All Of Your Valuable Digital Assets

External Hard Drives

With an external hard drive, you can back up your photos, videos, and other important files so you'll still have them if your computer crashes. You can also offload large files from your system to make your computer run more efficiently. Use a portable or desktop drive, according to your needs.

Perfect For: The photography enthusiast or videographer who needs to regularly back up and save files.



Produce High-Quality Docs At Home & On The Go

Printers

With features such as mobile printing, borderless photos, faxing, scanning, copying, and more, today's printers are built to offer convenience. And with a Wi-Fi-capable model, you won't be constrained by a cable connection, so you can place it wherever you want in your home or office.

Perfect For: Any busy family that needs all-in-one device that can operate as a copier, scanner, fax machine, and printer.



Protect Your System From Unexpected Power Spikes

Surge Protectors

By plugging your computer into a surge protector, you can prevent damage caused by electrical surges or spikes. Over time, power surges can shorten the life span of your computer equipment, but a surge protector will absorb any increase in electrical current and shield your system from potential harm.

Perfect For: Computer users who want to protect the performance of their PCs and laptops.

Cover The Basics

As new models are released, computer technologies change. To ensure that you stay on top of the latest advancements, here are some common questions and answers about next-generation computer features and capabilities.

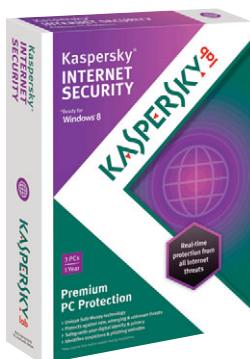
COMPUTERS & TABLETS



Acer Aspire M5 Touch Ultrabook



Sony VAIO Tap 20 Mobile Desktop



Kaspersky Internet Security 2013

What is an Ultrabook?

Designed as a new class of notebook, an Ultrabook is the happy medium between standard laptops and tablets. Ultrabook models typically feature rapid response technology (quickly wakes from sleep mode) and enhanced multitasking performance. Expect Ultrabooks to feature solid-state drives and offer long battery life.

What is an SSD?

A laptop that has a solid-state drive instead of a hard drive stores your applications and data in fast flash memory. Although it will cost more and give you less storage capacity for your photos and other files, an SSD-powered laptop will boot up and launch applications much faster than a laptop with a hard drive.

How is an all-in-one touchscreen similar to a tablet screen?

Like a tablet's touch-sensitive display, some all-in-one PCs feature a multi-media-optimized touchscreen. In addition to this similarity, unique all-in-ones with an adjustable viewing angle make it easy to read a book, watch a movie, or play a game.

What is 4K HD video resolution?

It's the next high-definition digital video standard. Until recently, 1080p Full HD (1,920 x 1,080) was the highest video resolution available. However, 4K (4,096 x 2,160 or 3,840 x 2,160) effectively quadruples 1080p screen resolution for greater visual detail.

How can security software keep me safe online?

Advanced security suites offer a range of behind-the-scenes features that protect a user from identity theft, phishing, viruses, and scams. For example, Internet security software acts as a virtual defense when you bank, shop, or connect with friends via social media sites. To keep kids safe on the Web, many suites include parental controls that can prevent children from accessing inappropriate sites or apps.

Glossary

Computers & Tablets

Shopping for computers, mobile devices, accessories, and the like can be daunting, especially if you're unfamiliar with much of the complex terminology. Here, we'll explain some of the must-know terms, so you can be a tech-savvy user.

COMPUTERS & TABLETS

#

3D-ready

This means a piece of hardware can play 3D content, but to do so it may require additional components such as 3D eyewear. In order to watch 3D content on a computer, certain hardware must be 3D-ready, such as a monitor and graphics card.

A

all-in-one computer

A PC that encompasses every component in a single, towerless unit that looks like a monitor. Typically all-in-ones are thin, making them ideal for small spaces. They also use less energy than most desktop/monitor pairings. Many have built-in Wi-Fi capabilities, so you won't need to connect the system to an Ethernet cable for Internet access. Models with touch-screen control are also available.

B

Bluetooth

A short-range wireless standard that connects devices such as computers, printers, headsets, and digital cameras so they can be used together without being connected physically with a cord.

E

Ethernet

A widely used type of wired network in which computers are physically linked with cables.

H

HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface)

An output that some computers offer to transmit uncompressed (and ultimately high-quality) audio and video to a compatible HD display, such as an HDTV.

M

mobile broadband

A communication technology, which is also called LTE, WiMAX, 3G, and 4G, that uses cell phone towers to connect devices to the Internet. Generally, you need a service contract, and it's only available in select areas.

O

operating system

The software, such as Windows 7, Windows 8, or Mac OS X, that controls a computer and its peripherals and serves as the primary interface for users.

P

processor

Also known as a microprocessor or CPU, this integrated circuit controls the computer. Some CPUs feature two or four processors (called dual- and quad-core processors) or more on a single die, speeding up the computer and its ability to multitask.

R

RAM (random-access memory)

A type of memory that's read from and written to by the CPU and hardware.

S

streaming

The act of transferring content from one device to another without copying it. For example, you can stream video from a computer in the basement to a compatible HDTV in the living room.

W

WLAN (wireless local-area network)

A setup that includes a wireless router and a number of Wi-Fi-enabled devices, such as notebooks and Blu-ray players, that communicate wirelessly to share files, media, etc.

Let The Professionals Handle Your Car Deck Install

You've purchased a new car deck that has all the features you want—satellite radio support, iPhone- or iPod-ready connections, an LCD display—but mounting your deck requires some expertise. Hand over the reins to the pro installers and you'll get the setup you want.

PORTABLE DEVICES

Sony A/V Receiver with
MirrorLink Technology
(XAV-601BT)



Add A New Car Deck Without A DIY Install

- A professional installation team can check your vehicle prior to the install to ensure that it's returned you in its original condition.
- You won't have to remove dash panels yourself; installers will detach and reinstall interior parts for you.
- The pros also will connect any necessary wiring, so your audio system will function properly.

Rely On The Autotechs To Get It Done Right

- Your local car-fi installers take care of every detail: They'll seamlessly integrate the deck into the dash.
- If the system requires the addition of an antenna or antenna adapter for clearer AM/FM reception, the install team will handle that, too.
- Pro installers can demonstrate all of the new deck's capabilities when the system is ready to go.

Take Advantage Of Other Pro Install Benefits

- Trustworthy CE retailers have teams that are trained to do the delicate work of deck installation.
- Along with the guarantee that your new deck is correctly installed, you may get a lifetime warranty, too.
- When you want to add a satellite radio, security equipment, or other car-fi devices, you can take your car back to the same CE retail pros.

Audio Anywhere You Like

MP3 Player Docks

There's a wide selection of MP3 players to choose from, and there are plenty of audio systems that can enhance your MP3 player listening experience. With one of these dock units, you'll no longer be confined to the in-ear enjoyment via earbuds or headphones.

PORTABLE DEVICES



Pick Your Player

MP3 player audio systems come in all shapes, sizes, and colors (although most are silver and black) plus they're portable, so you can move them from one location to another. Sizes vary as well—some are as small as 6 inches wide, but other docks can be large enough to be an entertainment centerpiece, such as an home theater audio setup.

Calls & Alarms

While numerous systems support older MP3 players, there are docks that are best suited for the latest players with mobile phone capabilities and apps. Some models can also pause your music when your mobile device receives an incoming phone call. What's more, many offer an alarm function so you can wake up to your favorite tunes.

Rock It Out

From across a room, you can access your MP3 player's functions to pause, skip, or play tracks or switch to a radio function with an included remote control. Some models offer built-in LED screens that relay the names of songs or artists you play. Additional features can include motion-activated snooze and multiple subwoofers.

Power It Up

When shopping for a dock that best suits your needs, make sure it's compatible with your MP3 player. Some models are compatible with multiple MP3 player models, making them ideal for those with different types. And if you use your player frequently, consider a dock that can charge and play music at the same time.

Whatever The Lifestyle, There's A Model To Match Headphones For All

Arguably, the best trait about headphones is no matter your quality, comfort, price, and usage requirements, chances are excellent you can find a pair to match your needs. The following are different headphone types and the type of people they're well-suited for.

PORTABLE DEVICES



Earbuds

The light weight and portability of earbuds make them ideal for sports enthusiasts, including weightlifters, long-distance runners, and swimmers. Various models fit inside and outside the ear canal, and some integrate in-line buttons that control volume, track selection, and incoming calls.

Bluetooth

Bluetooth headphones let wearers eliminate the need to use cable to connect to a Bluetooth-compatible audio source. Models may offer stereo and simulated surround-sound capabilities. They may also use an integrated rechargeable battery and sport on-the-ear and over-the-ear earcups or behind-the-neck bands.

Earcups

Depending on the price, earcups can differ greatly in audio and construction quality. You'll find models that are foldable, cover part of or the entire ear, and use varying headbands. Most models have a 3.5mm connector, but others for gaming and communication have a USB connector.

Noise Canceling & Sound Isolating

Travelers and gamers will appreciate noise-canceling or sound-isolating models, which can output clear audio at a low volume by reducing ambient noise. Noise-canceling technology uses battery-powered mics to neutralize outside sound while sound-isolating tech involves insulation or earbuds to block noise.

Stay The Course & Reach Your Goals

Gadgets That Inspire

If you seek health and fitness success, consider a health and fitness device. Some offer personal Web accounts where you can view your history and progress, giving you an extra kick to meet your goals, or work with iOS or Android devices for added convenience.

PORTABLE DEVICES



Sleep Better Than Before

We all need adequate sleep to feel our best. However, the quality of your sleep is just as important as the amount. To take steps to improve your slumber, you can wear a sleep device to monitor how long you spend in different sleep cycles and how often you wake, so you can view your data in graphical form.

Track Your Fitness

To get an accurate picture of your activity level, wearing a light and discreet fitness tracking device will do the trick. Basic models offer LED messages or icons to motivate you, whereas advanced trackers have touchscreens to deliver precise data such as your time, distance, speed, calories burned, and position.

Manage Your Weight

You no longer need a pen and paper to keep a detailed record of your weight progress and goals. Digital scales with wireless capabilities can record your weight and display your history on an Apple iPhone, touch, or iPad. Some scales can also upload your data online so you can access it from any Web device.

Watch Your Blood Pressure

Rather than wait for your next doctor's visit to get a blood pressure reading, you can get precise readings at home with a blood pressure dock. To get detailed information that's automatically tracked, simply connect an iOS device to the dock, wrap the dock's pressure cuff around your arm, and press start on your device.



Enjoy Multimedia With Better Audio Quality

Headphones

Tablets, MP3 players, and smartphones unlock plenty of audio and video for on-the-go entertainment. To make the most of it, pair your device with a pair of headphones that fit your specific needs. For example, you can block background sound with a noise-canceling pair or listen for long stretches of time with a comfortable over-the-ear model.

Perfect For: Those who value the highest entertainment experience possible, even when it's on a smaller screen.

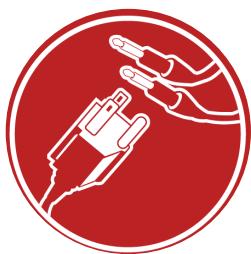


Unleash Content From Your Media Player

Docks & Speakers

From simple speakers that connect via a headphone jack to audio docks you can insert your device into, there are many accessories that can play portable device audio for all to hear. Some docks double as alarm clocks while others can simultaneously play tunes and charge your device's battery.

Perfect For: Those who want to wake up to a portable device playlist or share audio with groups of people.



Make Your Portable Device Last Longer

Chargers & Cables

No matter what type of portable device you have, a dying battery can be a major inconvenience. A portable charger solves this issue, letting you power your device in the car to make important phone calls, surf the Web, or play media. Add a compatible cable, and you'll be able to connect and play media on other devices. For instance, some devices can connect to an HDTV via an HDMI cable.

Perfect For: Those who want a more versatile portable device.



Safeguard Your Device From Wear & Tear

Smartphone & MP3 Player Cases

We frequently carry devices with us to communicate or play media, and it's wise to outfit them with a protective case. You'll find smartphone and MP3 player cases made from different materials, such as acrylic, rubber, or leather, and with useful features such as belt clips, wrist straps, and built-in screen protectors.

Perfect For: Anyone who wants to keep their phone or MP3 player in good working order for the long haul.

Glossary

Portable Devices

Smartphones and MP3 players share a lot of things in common, including terminology. To better understand these devices, read on to become aquainted with some of their features, capabilities, and specifications.

PORTABLE DEVICES

A

AAC

Short for Advanced Audio Codec, this format is a competitor of the more common MP3 file format. It is the default format used by Apple.

B

Bluetooth

A wireless technology, supported by some MP3 players, that connects devices with short-range radio frequencies.

C

capacity

How much data a smartphone or MP3 player can hold. This is typically expressed in gigabytes or megabytes. Generally speaking, 1GB will hold about 250 songs.

D

download

In terms of digital music, downloading is when you retrieve a song from an Internet site or another network connection and save it to your computer or portable music playing device. You can also download apps from to play

games, use productivity tools, reference information, and much more.

E

earbuds

Small, circular devices you put into your ears so you can listen to audio from your portable device. These serve the same function as headphones. Many smartphones and music players include their own earbuds, but you can purchase a separate pair that is more comfortable or of better quality.

F

flash memory

Solid-state memory with no moving parts that is lightweight and small. In terms of digital music players, a flash-based player is lighter and smaller than a hard drive-based player, and also, it won't skip. Thus, flash-based players are popular for use during exercise. However, the capacity of a flash-based player isn't as large as a hard drive-based player.

FM tuner

If your music player has a built-in FM tuner, you will be able to listen to music that is broadcast from local radio stations.

I

inline mic

A remote module built into the wiring of some headsets, an in-line mic lets you select and play audio files on your device, answer incoming phone calls, make outgoing calls, and mute the microphone.

M

MP3

Perhaps the most popular digital audio encoding format. It compresses audio to about one-twelfth the original size while still providing excellent sound. In general, a 1MB MP3 file will last about one minute.

P

podcast

A downloadable episode that is similar to a radio program. A user can subscribe to a podcast for updated episodes, or she can download podcasts one at a time.

W

widescreen

A screen that has a 16:9 aspect ratio.



First Glimpse is produced by Sandhills Publishing.

Founded in 1978, Sandhills Publishing is an information processing company with a diverse range of products covering a variety of industries. Sandhills Publishing is located in Lincoln, the capital of Nebraska, and benefits from the quality of life and strong work ethic traditionally associated with the Midwest.



Get More From Your Console Gaming Audio

Once upon a time, your TV's built-in speakers were adequate for your console gaming experience. Then again, once upon a time, game audio was nothing but beeps and boops. Today's games become much more immersive with a home theater audio system.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE



3D For Your Ears: Surround Sound

Video games have reached a level of sophistication that practically makes them interactive movies. And like movies, most game titles now come with high-quality surround sound for their sound effects, music, and dialogue. They can take advantage of your 5.1-channel or other speaker configuration to literally surround you with breathtaking excitement and thunderous subwoofer bass. Even recent game consoles with stereo audio offer virtual surround-sound technologies such as Dolby Pro Logic II, which you can enable with an A/V receiver. Surround sound can not only put you right in the middle of your game world, but also let you bring all your friends along for a motion gaming party.

Stealth & Strategy: Headphones

Sometimes, it can seem like the only free time you have to play video games is when other family members are sleeping, your roommate is studying, or the people in the next apartment are trying to put their baby down for the night. A comfortable pair of headphones can put you back in the game.

With headphones, you can crank up game audio as loud as you like without disturbing others. Headphones also can help you hear subtle game cues you may otherwise miss, such as distant chopper blades or the shout of a sentry. And if your headset has a microphone, you can strategize with your teammates during online multiplayer sessions.

Multimedia In Your Hands

Portable Consoles

Gamers who used to only be able to play on standalone consoles can now take a portable game system with them wherever they go. Not only that, but many of these systems can do more than play games. Here's a look at the features and benefits of portable game consoles.

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE

Sony PlayStation Vita
with Wi-Fi



Portability

Portable game consoles can be taken anywhere, such as on vacation or to a friend's house. These systems often have exclusive games and offer multiplayer functionality by connecting more than one devices together. Portable game consoles use batteries that can be recharged with an AC adapter and have built-in speakers and headphone jacks.

Connectivity

If you have a standalone game console, some portable systems can be remotely connected so you can access saved content, such as videos, photos, music, and games. Additionally, a portable game console with Bluetooth compatibility can be paired with a Bluetooth headset. Many models also include video outputs.

Web Access

Surfing the Web is possible with models that have built-in Wi-Fi. You might have to download an Internet application to your portable game console in order to enable Web access. Browsers are specifically built for portable console use, so Web navigation is made simple. You can also make Web phone calls with some models.

Content Options

While they are great for gaming, these systems provide much more in the way of mobile entertainment. Portable game consoles can play content stored on memory cards and discs, such as movies and music. You can purchase additional media from online networks so you can enjoy the latest movies, TV shows, and games.

Find Material That's Appropriate For Your Kids

ESRB Game RATINGS & DESCRIPTIONS

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE

ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) Ratings

In order for parents to select gaming software appropriate for their children, ESRB (www.esrb.org) ratings are listed on the front and back of most game packages to provide concise and impartial details about a title's content.



Early Childhood

- May be suitable for children ages 3 and older
- Doesn't contain material parents would find inappropriate



Everyone

- May be suitable for children ages 6 and older
- May contain minimal cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and infrequent use of mild language



Everyone 10+

- May be suitable for children ages 10 and older
- May contain more cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence/language plus minimal suggestive themes



Teen

- May be suitable for children ages 13 and older
- May contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, or infrequent use of strong language



Mature

- May be suitable for persons ages 17 and older
- May contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content, or strong language



Adults Only

- Only suitable for persons 18 years and older
- May include prolonged scenes of intense violence, graphic sexual content, or nudity

For additional information, ESRB ratings on the back of game packages include content descriptions and depictions.

Gaming For Parents

Aside from checking a game's ESRB rating, there are other ways you can ensure the games your youngsters are playing are age-appropriate.

- Look at the game graphics on a title's packaging.
- Find game reviews, screen shots, or demos to get a better idea of a game's content.
- If available, use a game's parental controls to restrict content.
- Talk to other parents and children who are familiar with or have played certain titles.

- Participate in your children's gaming and discuss their games as much as possible.
- Be aware that some game titles may contain material that's not ESRB rated. For example, "mods" are program downloads that can alter a game's content. Many games also use the Internet to connect with other players, and this opens the door to live player chats as well as other user-generated content.



Game With The Fastest Data Speeds Possible

Dual-Band Wireless N Routers

To enjoy HD games or videos from your game console with the best wireless experience, you need an 802.11n dual-band router. Some models offer extended wireless ranges for an optimal signal, even in large residences. You might also be able to connect USB printers and hard drives to the router to let anyone wirelessly print or upload files via the network.

Perfect For: Gamers who want an instant, lag-free response during online gameplay and media playback.



Immerse Yourself In Another World

Gaming Headsets

Communication is key to many collaborative online gaming situations, so a headset with a microphone is a natural fit. With a headset, gamers can chat with multi-player teammates during squad play or a raid and hear crucial sound cues more clearly for quicker response times and higher scores.

Perfect For: Gamers who want to keep their ears trained on the game and have an unobtrusive way to communicate.



Get A Better Grip On How You Want To Game

Gaming Controllers & Add-Ons

A game console might only include one controller, so you'll need to purchase more unless you always play solo. You can also choose controllers that better match your style: There are many different designs and colors. And to make your games feel more realistic, you can supplement select controllers with add-ons, such as a steering wheel, baseball bat, or crossbow.

Perfect For: Those who want to go head-to-head with others in a game or add some personal flair.



Sit Down & Forget About The Real World

Gaming Chairs

Comfortably play for the long haul with an ergonomic gaming chair. While you can settle for a basic model, consider the extras that can help take your gaming enjoyment to an entirely different level. For instance, built-in speakers with adjustable volume and sound-responsive vibrations will work together to make you forget you're sitting in your living room.

Perfect For: Gamers who want to fully immerse themselves in the game but maintain maximum comfort.

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This Month's Blu-ray Disc RELEASES

GAMING, MEDIA & MORE

| | Release Date | SKU | Rating |
|--|--------------|----------|-----------|
| January | | | |
| School Of Rock | 1-Jan | 7272071 | PG-13 |
| Shooter | 1-Jan | 7272053 | R |
| Shutter Island | 1-Jan | 20850378 | R |
| The Spiderwick Chronicles | 1-Jan | 20850183 | PG |
| There Will Be Blood | 1-Jan | 7272044 | R |
| To Catch A Thief | 1-Jan | 20850253 | Not Rated |
| Tommy Boy | 1-Jan | 20850305 | PG-13 |
| Trading Places | 1-Jan | 20850314 | R |
| Tropic Thunder | 1-Jan | 7272062 | R |
| Varsity Blues | 1-Jan | 20849945 | R |
| Wayne's World | 1-Jan | 20850031 | PG-13 |
| Abducted | 8-Jan | 20843314 | Not Rated |
| Anger Management: Season 1 | 8-Jan | 7189224 | Not Rated |
| Archer: The Complete Season 3 | 8-Jan | 7120095 | Not Rated |
| Driving Miss Daisy | 8-Jan | 20700162 | PG |
| Happy Feet/The Ant Bully/Scooby-Doo | 8-Jan | 20847189 | Not Rated |
| One Fine Day | 8-Jan | 20770181 | PG |
| The Brothers Grimm | 8-Jan | 20790515 | PG-13 |
| Taken 2 | 15-Jan | 7188049 | PG-13 |
| Allegiance | 15-Jan | 6975381 | R |
| How Green Was My Valley | 15-Jan | 20842642 | Not Rated |
| Intouchables | 15-Jan | 20821322 | R |
| Paperboy | 15-Jan | 6974442 | R |
| Possession | 15-Jan | 7120129 | PG-13 |
| The Notebook | 15-Jan | 7079137 | PG-13 |
| To Rome With Love | 15-Jan | 7113101 | R |
| Won't Back Down | 15-Jan | 7243243 | PG |
| Awakening | 29-Jan | 7184061 | R |
| Masterpiece Classic: Downton Abbey Season 3 | 29-Jan | 7005307 | Not Rated |
| Sling Blade/Monsters Ball | 29-Jan | 20826266 | R |

The Spiderwick Chronicles

Rating: PG | SKU: 20850183

Release Date: 1/1



Downton Abbey Season 3

Rating: Not Rated | SKU: 7005307

Release Date: 1/29



There Will Be Blood

Rating: R | SKU: 7272044

Release Date: 1/1



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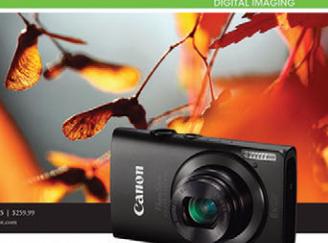
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DIGITAL IMAGING

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- 10x optical zoom to get up-close shots from far away
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- 12.1 megapixels and large 3.0-inch LCD
- Smart AUTO technology lets the everything onto frame, including big groups or motion scenes or subjects
- High-Speed Burst mode to ensure quick and accurate shots, so you don't miss a moment

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The Canon ELPH 310 HS can also record high-quality video in Full HD 1080p. Just press the camera's movie button, and you can record motion video with sharp, lifelike details. You can also zoom and capture photos as you shoot video. And with such a compact design, the next adventure you have, you can connect the ELPH 310 HS to an HDTV via an HDMI cable.

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Providing the tools necessary for photography enthusiasts and professionals, a Canon D-SLR (www.usa.canon.com) will deliver the image results you want to achieve.

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DIGITAL IMAGING

| Product Name SKU | EOS Rebel T3 1198767 | EOS Rebel T2i 3078035 | EOS Rebel T3i 7900124 | EOS 60D 12221963 | EOS 7D 9489935 | EOS 5D Mark II 9152454 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| MSRP | \$399.99 | \$799.99 | \$999.99 | \$1,299.99 | \$1,699.99 | \$2,499.99 |
| Effective Resolution | 12.2MP | 18MP | 18MP | 18MP | 18MP | 21.1MP |
| Kit Lens | EF-S 18-55mm 3.5-5.6 | EF-S 18-55mm 3.5-5.6 | EF-S 18-55mm 3.5-5.6 | EF 18-135mm 3.5-5.6 | EF 28-135mm 3.5-5.6 | Body only no lens |
| Image Processor | DIGIC 4 | DIGIC 4 | DIGIC 4 | DIGIC 4 | DIGIC 4 | DIGIC 4 |
| LCD | 7.7-inch | 3-inch | 3-inch Var-Angle | 3-inch Var-Angle | 3-inch | 3-inch |
| Shutter Speed | 30ths to 1/4,000 seconds | 30ths to 1/4,000 seconds | 30ths to 1/4,000 seconds | 30ths to 1/8,000 seconds | 30ths to 1/8,000 seconds | 30ths to 1/8,000 seconds |
| Memory Card Support | SD/SDHC/SDXC | SD/SDHC/SDXC | SD/SDHC/SDXC | SD/SDHC/SDXC | CF Type I and II | CF Type I and II |
| Maximum ISO | 6400 | 6400 (can be expanded to 12800) |
| Continuous Shooting Speed | 3 shots per second | 3.7 shots per second | 3.7 shots per second | 5.3 shots per second | 8 shots per second | 3.9 shots per second |
| Movie Mode | HQ 720p | Full HD 1080p | Full HD 1080p | Full HD 1080p | Full HD 1080p | Full HD 1080p plus 3D |
| Autofocus System | 9-point | 9-point | 9-point | 9-point | 9-point | 9-point plus 3D plus points |
| Use View | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Eye Detection | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Weight (Camera Body Only) | 17.7 ounces | 18.7 ounces | 18.2 ounces | 23.8 ounces | 26.9 ounces | 26.6 ounces |
| Battery Type | LP-E10 rechargeable | LP-E10 rechargeable | LP-E10 rechargeable | LP-E10 rechargeable | LP-E10 rechargeable | LP-E10 rechargeable |

These based on the use are for general reference and may vary from manufacturer.

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